VIZ media

shôjo

BASARA

Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol. 26

shôjo

BASARA

Vol. 26

Story and Art by

Yumi Tamura

Basara

Vol. #26
Shôjo Edition

Story and Art by
Yumi Tamura

Translation/Lillian Olsen
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Bill Schuch
Cover and Interior Design/Yuki Ameda
Editor/Shaenon K. Garrity

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
VP of Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye
VP of Sales/Gonzalo Ferreyra
Sr. VP of Marketing/Liza Coppola
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

© 1999 Yumi TAMURA/Shogakukan Inc.
First published by Shogakukan Inc. in Japan as "Basara."
All rights reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

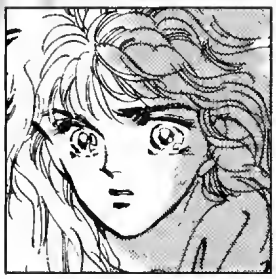
Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

Shôjo Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, February 2008

After a global apocalypse, Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." But Tatara, the "Boy of Destiny," was killed by the Red King, one of the four sons of King Ukon XV. Tatara's twin sister, Sarasa, took up his name and his mission, vowing to lead Japan to freedom and peace.

Sarasa's quest has ended, but *Basara* continues! Enjoy this collection of special side stories exploring the characters and their world.



Sarasa

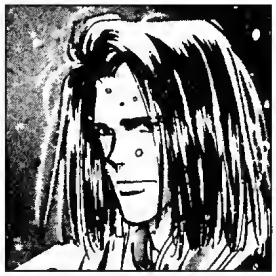
When Sarasa and her twin brother Tatara were born, a prophecy was made: "This is a child of destiny..." The people of Byakko Village raised Tatara as the "Boy of Destiny." But when Tatara is killed in battle, Sarasa takes up her brother's name and fights in his guise, not realizing that she is the real Child of Destiny.

The Red King

The youngest of King Ukon's four sons. Only a privileged few call him by his name, Shuri. When he allies himself with Sarasa's rebel forces, his plan to seize the throne from his tyrannical father changes to a dream of peace and freedom for Japan.

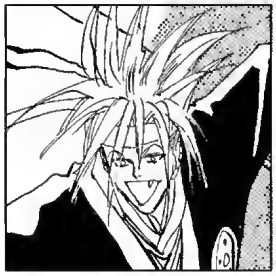
Asagi

His pale skin and refined demeanor belie his ruthlessness and deadly skills. Asagi is the Blue King, raised by the White King to want nothing more than destruction and revenge...until his path crosses Sarasa's.



Hijiri

Learned in *batto-jutsu*, the art of the sword, he's the leader of the Tengu Faction, a somewhat radical group of young Hongu monks in Kumano.



Nachi

Spirited and daring, Nachi is Hijiri's second-in-command and the son of the head priest at the Great Kumano Hongu Shrine.

CONTENTS

BASARA Appendix 3
NAKAMA
Yellow Story: Tangerine
5

BASARA Appendix 4
DAKARA
Azure Story: Peach
40

BASARA Appendix 5
KATANA
Rainbow Story: Gingko
47

Tam-Tam Time
151

Tam-Tam Extra
Summer Kohaku Singing Challenge
155

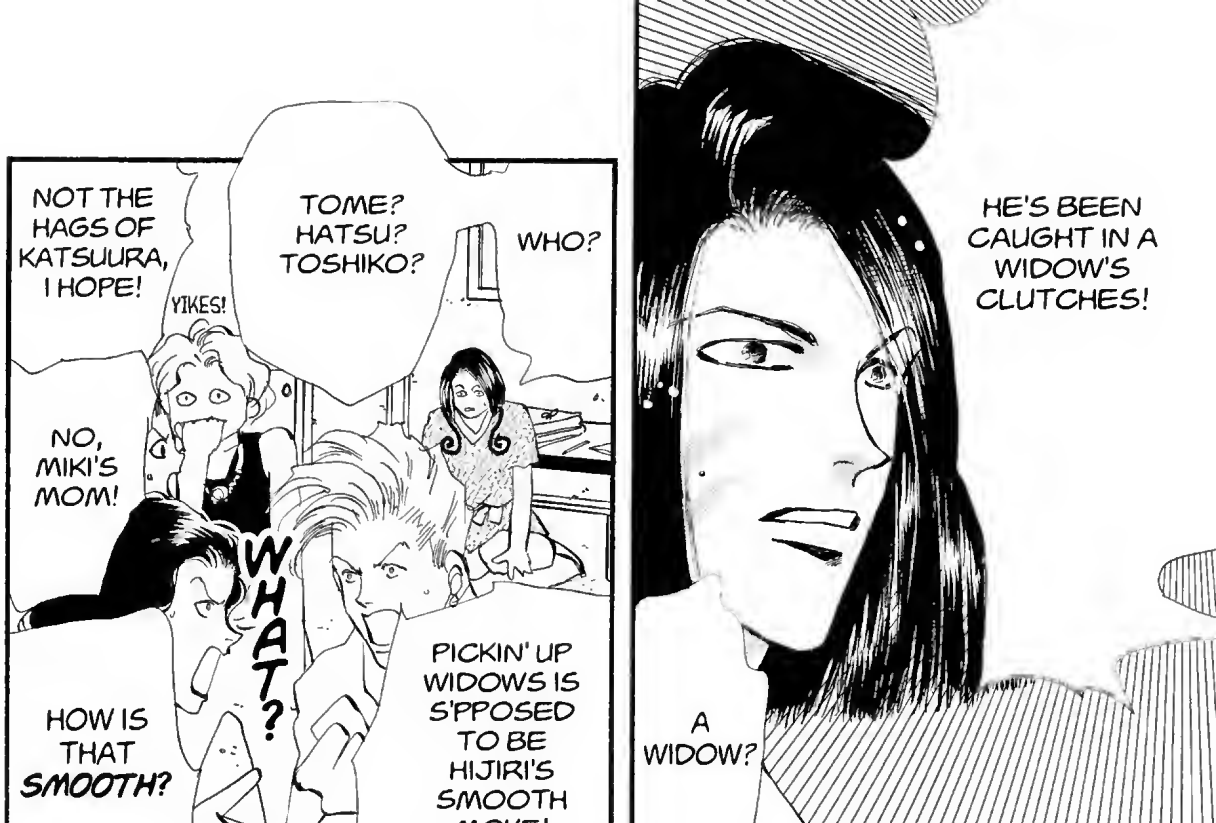
BASARA APPENDIX 3

NAKAMA FELLOWSHIP

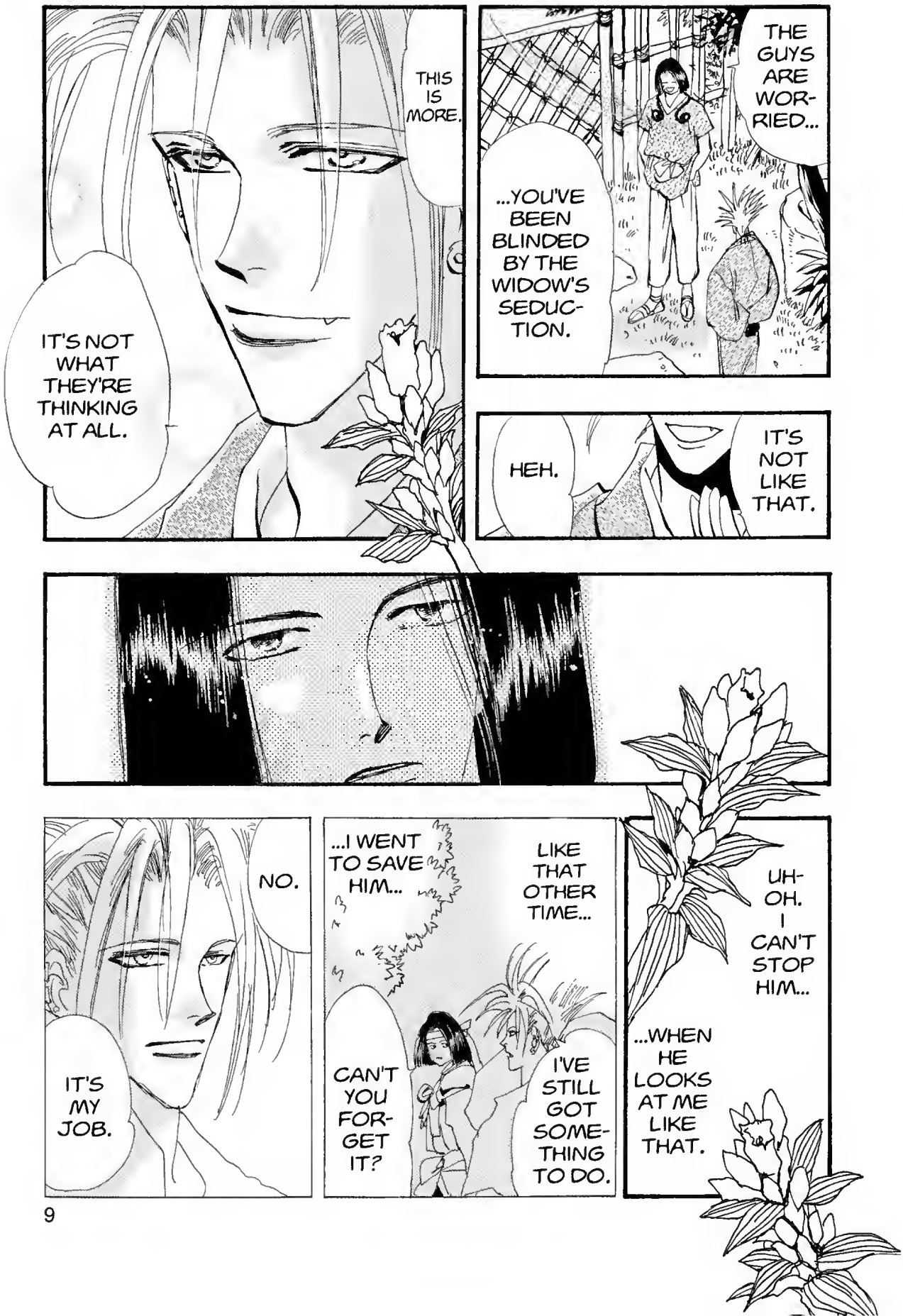
YELLOW STORY: TANGERINE

I BET ONE DAY...
THEY'LL BE MAJOR TOURIST ATTRAC-TIONS!
AND WE'LL MAKE A KILLING.
YOUNG MAS-TER!
MIKI?
HEY!
AND THEY'RE SO STRONG!
THEY WORK SO HARD!
OVER HERE!
THANKS FOR BRINGIN' THEM HERE!
THOUGH THEY EAT A LOT, TOO.
PLOP
MINE, OF COURSE!
OF COURSE!
YOU HAVE ONE?
MAMA'S BACK!
WHOSE MAMA?
MAMA!
LET'S SEE...MIKI'S BEEN A GREAT HELP TO US...WELL, A LITTLE HELP...
I'D BETTER SAY HI, TOO.
SHE WAS SICK AT A REST HOME.
SHE WANTS TO SAY HI TO YOU.
BUT SHE'S FINALLY BACK.

HIJIRI!
HIJIRI!
NACHI'S IN SERIOUS TROU-BLE!
TM TM
TENG



*HIS FAN CLUB. SCARY TO THINK ABOUT.


THIS IS MORE.
IT'S NOT WHAT THEY'RE THINKING AT ALL.
THE GUYS ARE WORRIED...
...YOU'VE BEEN BLINDED BY THE WIDOW'S SEDUCTION.
HEH.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
NO.
IT'S MY JOB.
...I WENT TO SAVE HIM...
LIKE THAT OTHER TIME...
CAN'T YOU FORGET IT?
I'VE STILL GOT SOMETHING TO DO.
UH-OH. I CAN'T STOP HIM...
...WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME LIKE THAT.

HEY!
IS THAT YOU, HIJIRI?
I WONDER WHY...
WELL, GOOD LUCK.
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW HE SHOULDN'T GO...
...I CAN'T DENY HIM WHEN HE MAKES THAT FACE.
DIDN'T YOU COME HERE TO SAY SOMETHING?
I BROUGHT THE KIDS OVER FOR A VISIT, AS USUAL.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN WEEKS.
IS THAT HOW YOU GREET YOUR FATHER?
WHEE
PA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?
HIYA!
HI!
WE HAVE AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM.
...TO CREATE BONDS WHILE THEY'RE YOUNG.
YOO-HOO!
HI!
WHEN THE LOCAL BOYS AND GIRLS TURN TEN, THEY VISIT EACH OTHERS' TERRITORIES...
MY DAD, LEADER OF THE SAIGA AND NEGORO CLANS...
SAIGA/NEGORO TERRITORY
LAND OF KI
KUMANO TERRITORY
...AND NACHI'S DAD, THE HIGH PRIEST OF KUMANO, ARE OLD FRIENDS.
OH.
THAT TIME OF YEAR ALREADY?

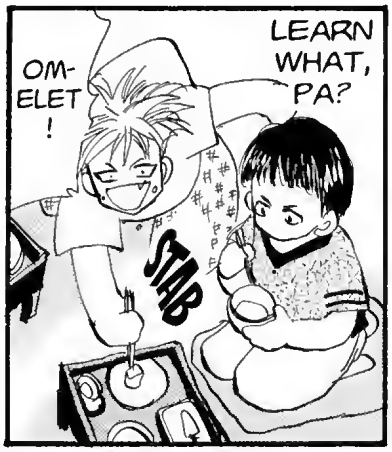
AGE 10
THIS IS MY SON, HIJIRI.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
THAT'S HOW I CAME TO KUMANO.

I LOOK AWAY FOR A MIN-UTE AND...
AND YOUR SON?
HE TOOK OFF!
BONG
GAH!
HERE COMES NACHI!
SORRY!
THOUGHT YOU'D GET OUTTA THE WAY!
DID IT HURT?
YOU OKAY, THEN?
I HATED CLASS CLOWNS.
WHAT AN IDIOT.
WOO WOO!
BLOW YOUR NOSE!

I WAS HOPIN' HE COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM NACHI.
SCARF SCARF
MY HIJIRI IS SHY. HE TAKES A WHILE TO WARM UP TO PEOPLE.

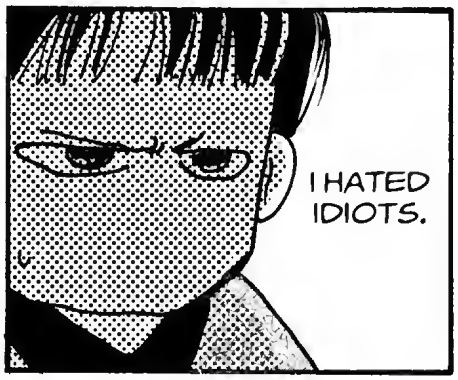
YOU PLAY ALL THE TIME!
NO WAY!
GO STUDY!

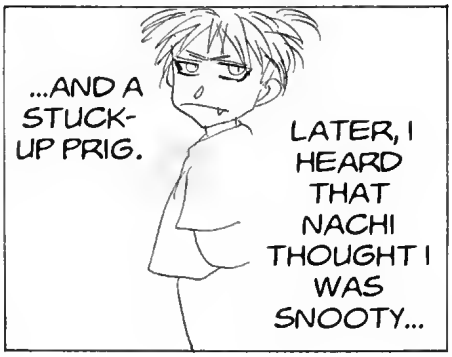
FROM HIM?
NACHI, KNOCK IT OFF!
WHEE
I WAS SAVIN' IT FOR LAST...


LEARN WHAT, PA?
OM-ELET!
STAB

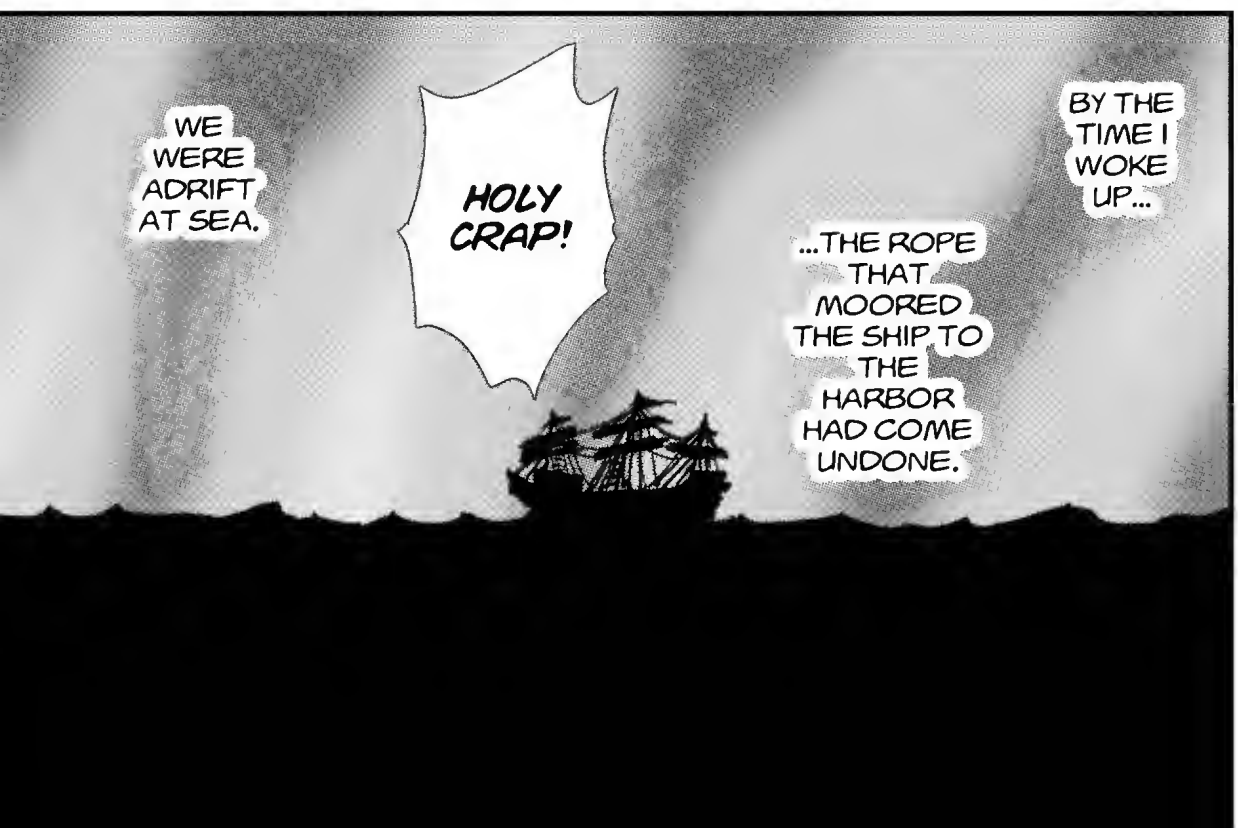
WASH THE DECK OF THE TANGER-INE SHIP.
IT SETS SAIL TOMOR-ROW, SO CLEAN IT TOGETHER.

WE WEREN'T GETTIN' ALONG...
WHAT?
...SO OUR DADS ASSIGNED US A PROJECT.


I HATED IDIOTS.


...AND A STUCK-UP PRIG.
LATER, I HEARD THAT NACHI THOUGHT I WAS SNOOTY...

ZZ
I'LL DO MY JOB!
I HATED SLACK-ERS, TOO.
I WON'T PLAY HOOKY!
AW, WHO CARES?
HEY!
GET TO WORK!
OOF.
THE BEST TANGER-INES FOR KING UKON!
DON'T YOU EAT ANY!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN A NAP.
ZASH
WHEW.
NEAT
THERE! ALL DONE!


WE WERE ADRIFT AT SEA.
HOLY CRAP!
BY THE TIME I WOKE UP...
...THE ROPE THAT MOORED THE SHIP TO THE HARBOR HAD COME UNDONE.

THE WIND PICKED UP AND IT STARTED TO RAIN.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
I CAN'T SEE THE LIGHTS ON SHORE!
NO STARS!
WHERE THE HECK ARE WE?
ACK ACK ACK
WHAT DO WE DO?
WE'RE IN SO MUCH TROUBLE!
THE SHIP WAS TOSSED AROUND LIKE A LEAF.
OOF!
OOF!
NO MATCHES!
KSH KSH
BETTER LIGHT A FIRE!
FWM FWM FWM
YIPE
IT'S TOTAL-LY DARK OUT! SCARY!
OMIGOD!
PELL-MELL
ARG!
WAAH
CHAOS
WAAH
OMIGOD!
WAAH
URP.
KRII
TM TM
KRII
I WASN'T USED TO SAILING.
URP.

CALM DOWN, WILL YOU?
TRIP
KRI!
SECURE THE MAST!
WAAH
WAAH
OR IT'LL FALL!
ROPE! ROPE!
KRII
KRII...
KEEP CALM IN ANY SITUA-TION.
THAT'S MY MOTTO.
KRII...
GOTTA BAIL IT OUT!
HOLY CRAP!
PLSH
WE'RE TAKIN' IN WATER!
PLSH
WELL, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY ...
FRUIT
I'M SO HUNGRY ...
PANTS ARE LOOSE!
I WON'T LET THIS GET TO ME.

*A NOVEL BY JULES VERNE ABOUT A GROUP OF SCHOOLBOYS LOST AT SEA. AN ANIME ADAPTATION WAS PRODUCED IN 1982.

VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME

SARASA, MEANWHILE...

6 YEARS OLD

TAKING A NAP

SHURI, MEANWHILE...

AT A MISCHIEVOUS AGE.

GO! GO!

BABYSITTING IS ROUGH.

TAMU.

IT WAS PROBABLY PAST MIDNIGHT ...

THE HUNGER BECAME TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

ARE YOU EATIN' THE TANGERINES?

HEY, HIJIRI!

YEAH! YOU GOT A *PROBLEM* WITH THAT?

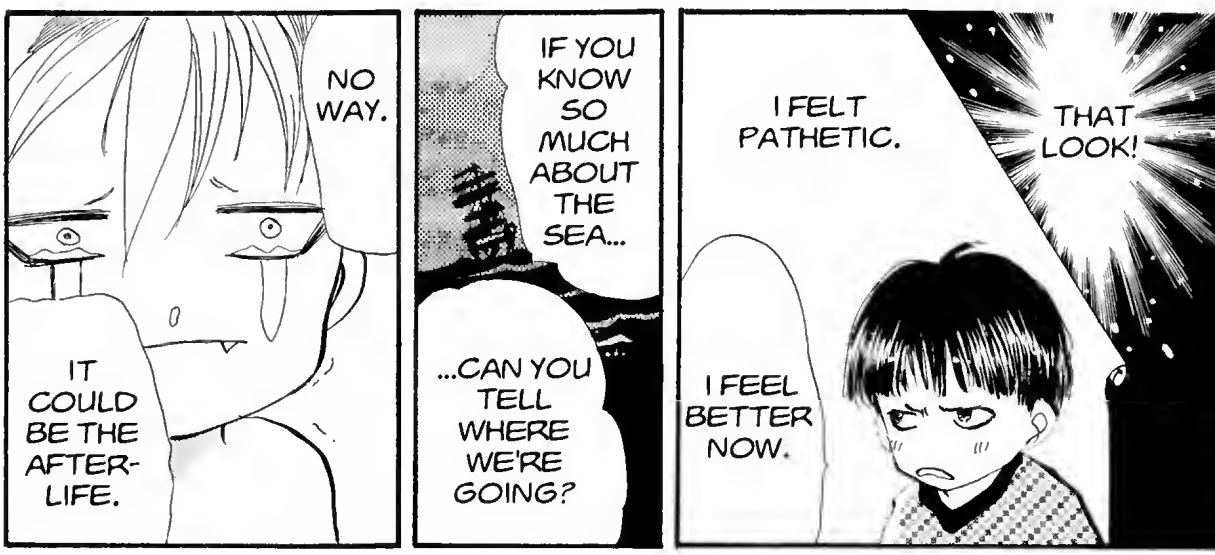
WHEN DID HE START ACTING SO CHUMMY?

ONLY KING UKON GETS TO EAT THOSE!

NUH-UH. THEY'RE GOOD, HUH?

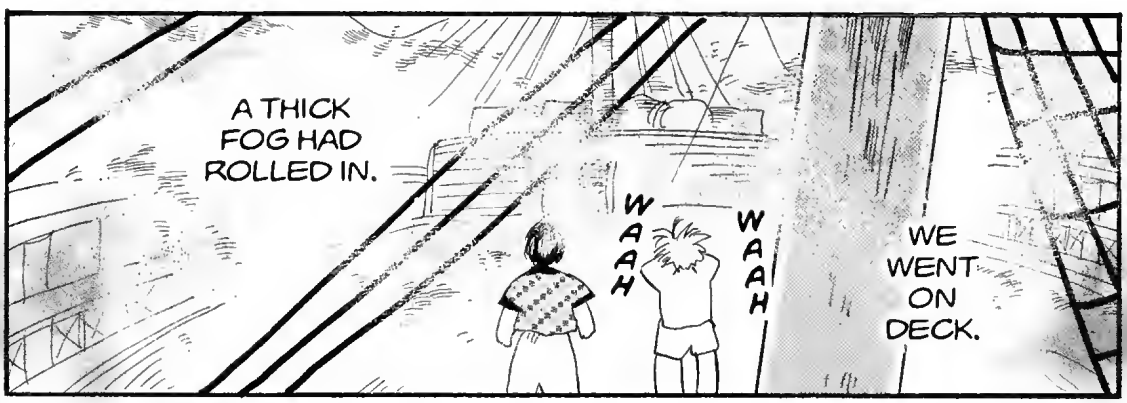
I COLLECTED RAINWATER.
WE CAN DRINK IT AS IS...
OR FILTER IT WITH CHAR-COAL.
WON'T THAT BE GOOD?
CERAMIC BRAZIER
THESE WERE IN THE CAP-TAIN'S CABIN!
PLUS A GRILL.
A CHARCOAL GRILL AND SOME GOOD CHAR-COAL.
LET'S GRILL THE FISH!
TONGS
SO I CAUGHT SOME FISH!
I WAS AFRAID YOU DIDN'T LIKE TANGERINES.
WHEN DID HE...?
...HE WAS NO IDIOT.
WE SHOULD SAVOR 'EM, BUT I ALWAYS GOBBLE UP STUFF I LOVE.
THESE ARE THE LAST TANGER-INES.
ONE EACH.
I FINALLY REALIZED ...
IT HAD GOTTEN QUIET OUTSIDE.
IT'S LIKE A PICNIC!

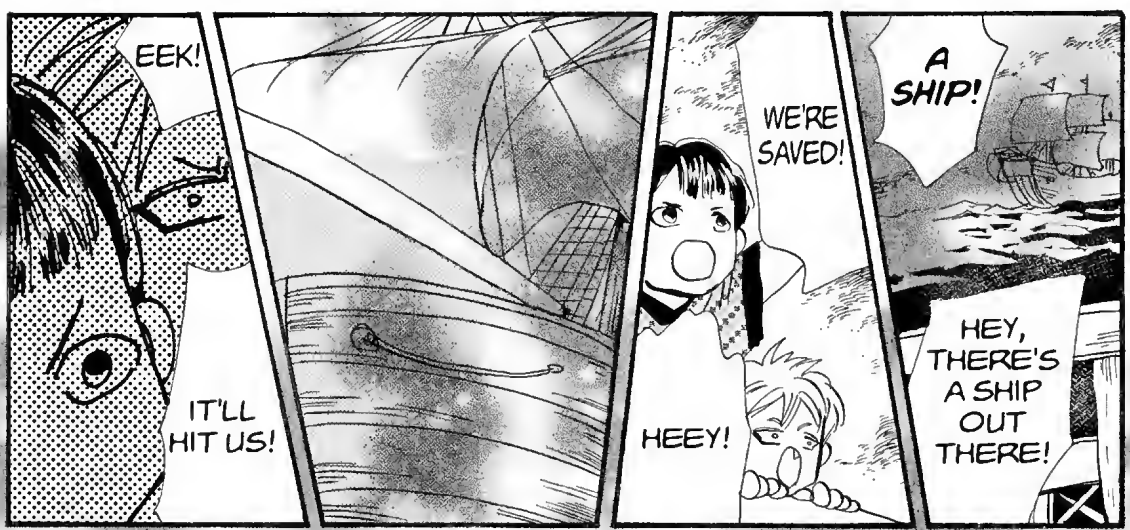
I WAS THE ONE WHO PANICKED.
I HADN'T GOTTEN ANYTHING DONE AT ALL.
SOR-RY...
YOU DID EVERY-THING.
AW.
I'M MORE USED TO SHIPS AND THE OCEAN.
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE SEASICK.
YOU GO ON AND REST.


I FELT PATHETIC.
THAT LOOK!
I FEEL BETTER NOW.
IF YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE SEA...
...CAN YOU TELL WHERE WE'RE GOING?
NO WAY.
IT COULD BE THE AFTER-LIFE.

A LONG TIME AGO, MONKS SET SAIL FROM THE WATERS OF KUMANO...
...TO SEEK THE BUDDHIST PURE LAND IN THE SOUTHERN SEAS.

IT'S BETTER THAN HELL, BUT I DON'T WANNA GO YET!
WAAH
WE'RE PROBABLY DRIFTING TO HEAVEN!


A THICK FOG HAD ROLLED IN.
WAAH
WAAH
WE WENT ON DECK.


EEK!
IT'LL HIT US!
WE'RE SAVED!
HEEY!
A SHIP!
HEY, THERE'S A SHIP OUT THERE!

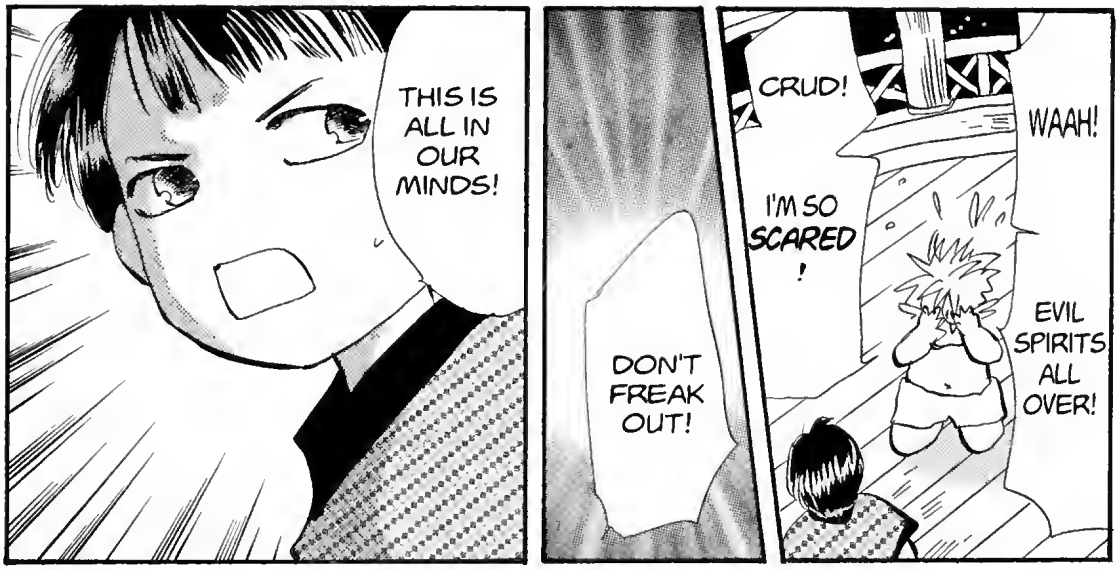
COME ON IN.
OVER HERE.
HEE HEE ...

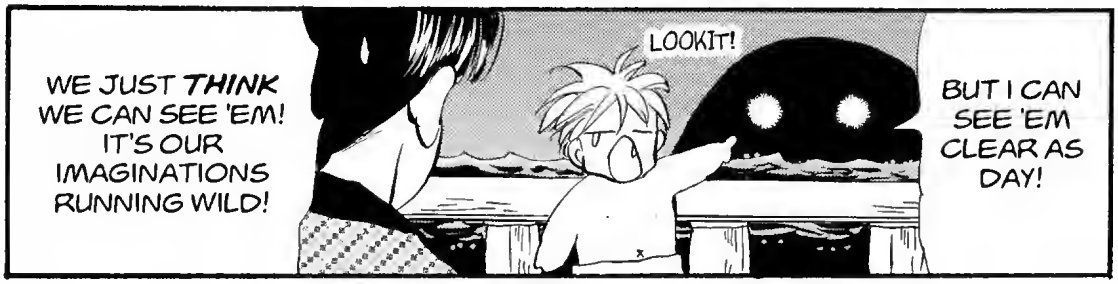
WHOA!
WE'LL RUN AGROUND ON A REEF!
DON'T LISTEN TO THEM!
MER-MAIDS!

AND ANOTHER GYAAH!
GYAAH!

GACK
IT'S A GHOST SHIP!
A GHOST!
OH NO!
IF THEY SAY ANYTHING, DON'T TALK BACK! THEY'LL DRAG US BACK WITH THEM!
WAAH!
BRR BRR BRR
THEN ...
...IS THAT A GHOST, TOO?

GYAAH!
...WAS STILL FULL OF MYSTERIES.
THE OPEN OCEAN...


THIS IS ALL IN OUR MINDS!
DON'T FREAK OUT!
CRUD!
I'M SO SCARED!
WAAH!
EVIL SPIRITS ALL OVER!


WE JUST THINK WE CAN SEE 'EM! IT'S OUR IMAGINATIONS RUNNING WILD!
LOOKIT!
BUT I CAN SEE 'EM CLEAR AS DAY!

BUT NACHI LATER SAID...
...I LOOKED SO CONFIDENT AND REASSURING...
...THAT HE WAS FILLED WITH HOPE.

IT WAS JUST BRAVADO.

TELL YOURSELF NOT TO BE SCARED!
DON'T WORRY!

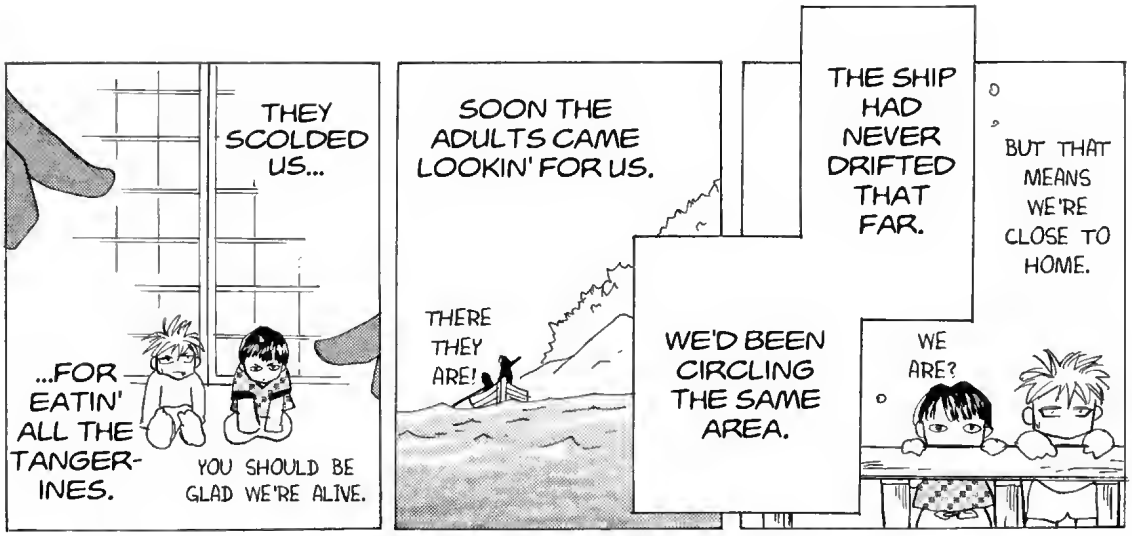
YOU CHEATER! I THOUGHT YOU HAD INTEGRITY!
I WAS BEING RESOURCEFUL...
WUP
WUP
HEY!
WHAT THE...
YOU WERE HOARDING ONE?
WOBBLE
WHOA!
WUP
THEN THE WIND PICKED UP AGAIN...
BOOSH
LIKE YOU'VE GOT ROOM TO TALK!
TWO OF 'EM!
HEY, YOU WERE HIDING SOME, TOO!
PUSH
THANK YOU.
WHAT A WASTE!
WAAH
WOOOM
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
OH, NO!

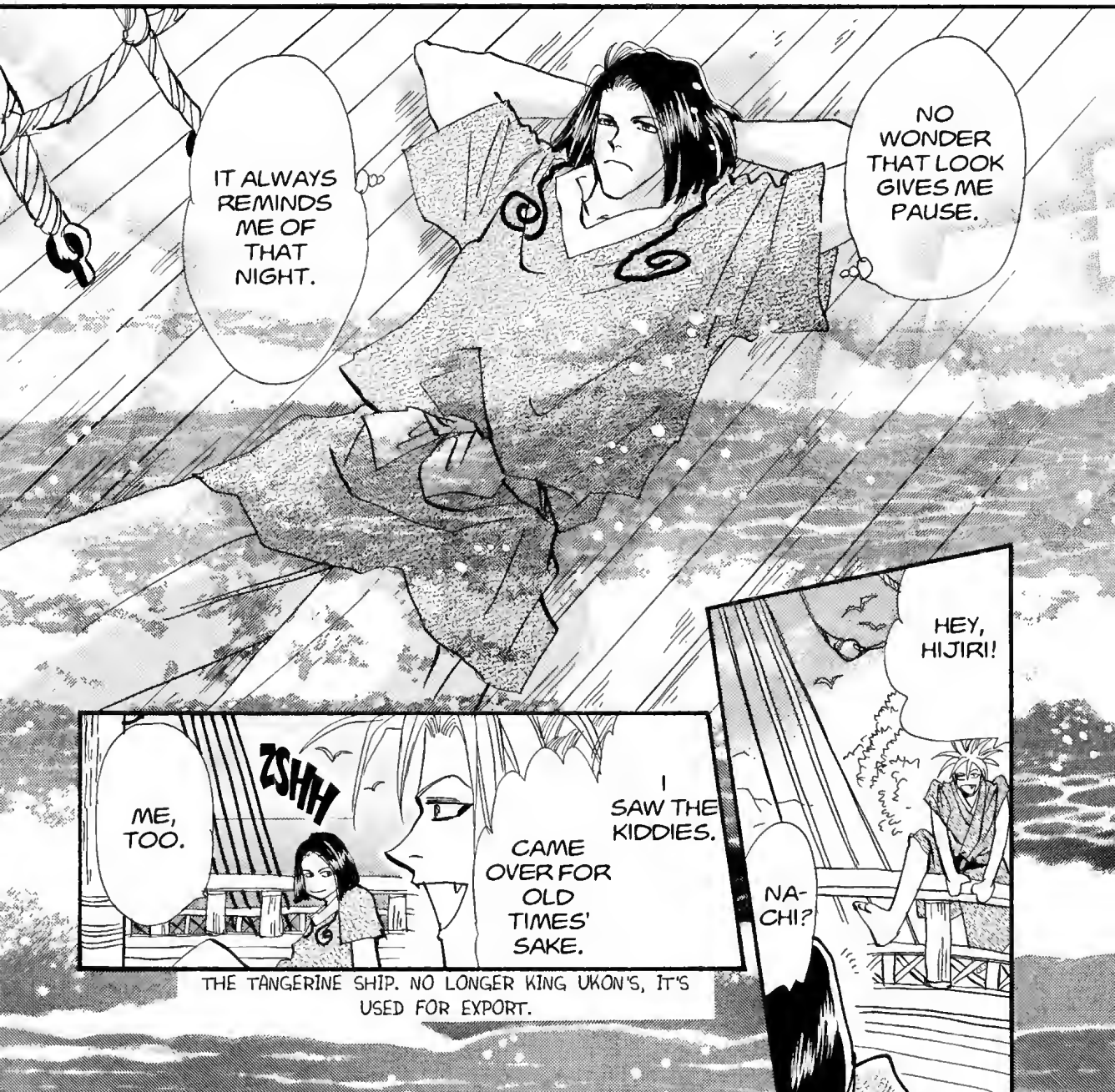
IF YOU KEEP GOING THAT WAY, YOU'LL HIT ROCKS.
IN RETURN, A WARNING.
TURN THE SHIP AROUND.
WHY ARE YOU TAKIN' MY WORD FOR IT?
LET'S HOIST SAIL!
HARD TO STAR-BOARD!
...I FINALLY NOTICED...
AND THEN ...
GOTCHA!
ER...
I HAVE A HUNCH.
NACHI!
WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT ROCKS!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?

WAIT.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR LEG HURTS.
I'LL GO UP.
HE'D NOTICED I WAS SEASICK...
...BUT I NEVER NOTICED ANYTHING.
...NACHI WAS LIMPING.
HE MUST'VE SPRAINED AN ANKLE WHEN HE TRIPPED.
...SO GRATEFUL.
NACHI LOOKED...
NO.
THIS IS MY JOB.
...HE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT SOME THINGS.
I KNEW...
IT WAS THAT FACE.

WAAH!
SLIP
BE CARE-FUL!
BUT ...
PING
THANKS A LOT!
SNIFF!
AT LEAST TETHER YOURSELF WITH A LIFELINE!
...YOU GOTTA THINK THINGS THROUGH!
...THE MONSTERS HAD DISAPPEARED.
BY THE TIME WE FINALLY TURNED THE SHIP AROUND...
ALMOST!
...AS HARD AS WE COULD.
WE WORKED TO-GETHER ...

I WAS AN ONLY CHILD...
...AND I'D NEVER HAD TO SHARE WITH ANYONE.
YOU WEASEL!
YOU WERE HOARDIN' ANOTHER ONE?
SHLP
...ANYTHING AS DELICIOUS AS THAT TANGERINE.
ONE GULP!
NIBBLE
NEVER, BEFORE OR SINCE, HAVE I EATEN...
WHEN THE SUN STARTED TO RISE...
...WE SAW ROCKS BEHIND US.
THE BRIDGE POST ROCKS!
WE WOULD'VE HIT THEM!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
YOUR HUNCH WAS AMAZING!
I DIDN'T TELL HIM ABOUT THE MERMAID.





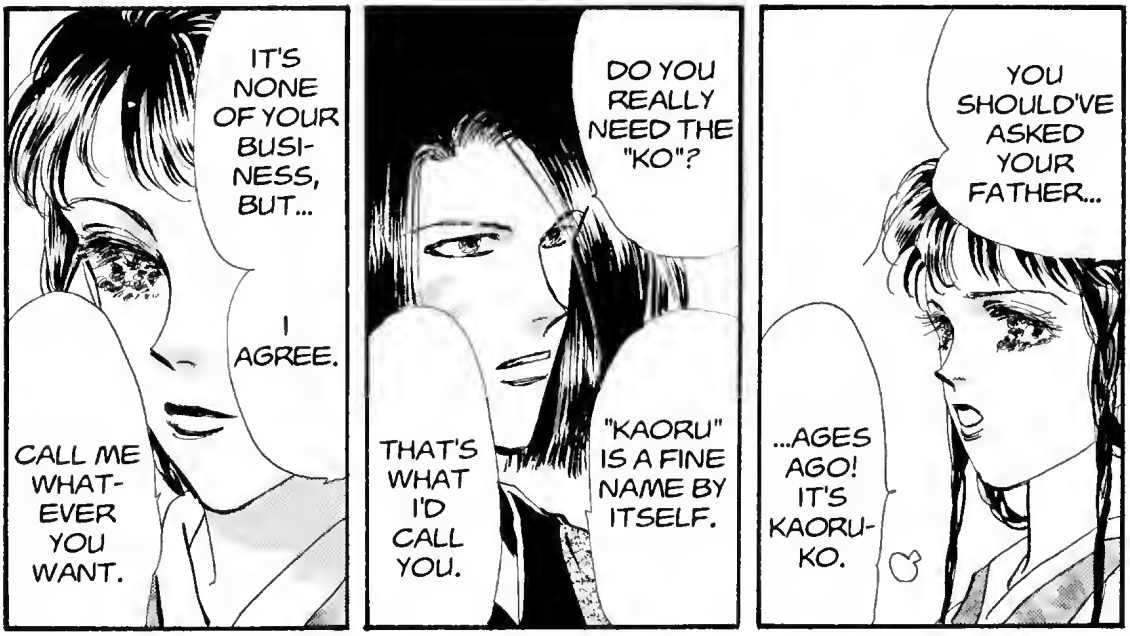
THE TANGERINE SHIP. NO LONGER KING UKON'S, IT'S USED FOR EXPORT.

I KIND OF WISHED IT WOULD HAPPEN.
I TOOK ONE FROM BELOW DECK.
SHLP
BUT WE'RE ALL GROWN UP NOW, SO NO WORRIES.
WE CAN MAKE IT HOME BY OURSELVES.
...THE SHIP MIGHT TAKE OFF AGAIN!
HA HA
IF WE SIT HERE LIKE THIS...
ONE GULP!
THE OTHERS MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS...
ZZZ
I CAN FEEL SAFE...
... BECAUSE OF YOU.
WITH YOU AROUND, I'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
NO...

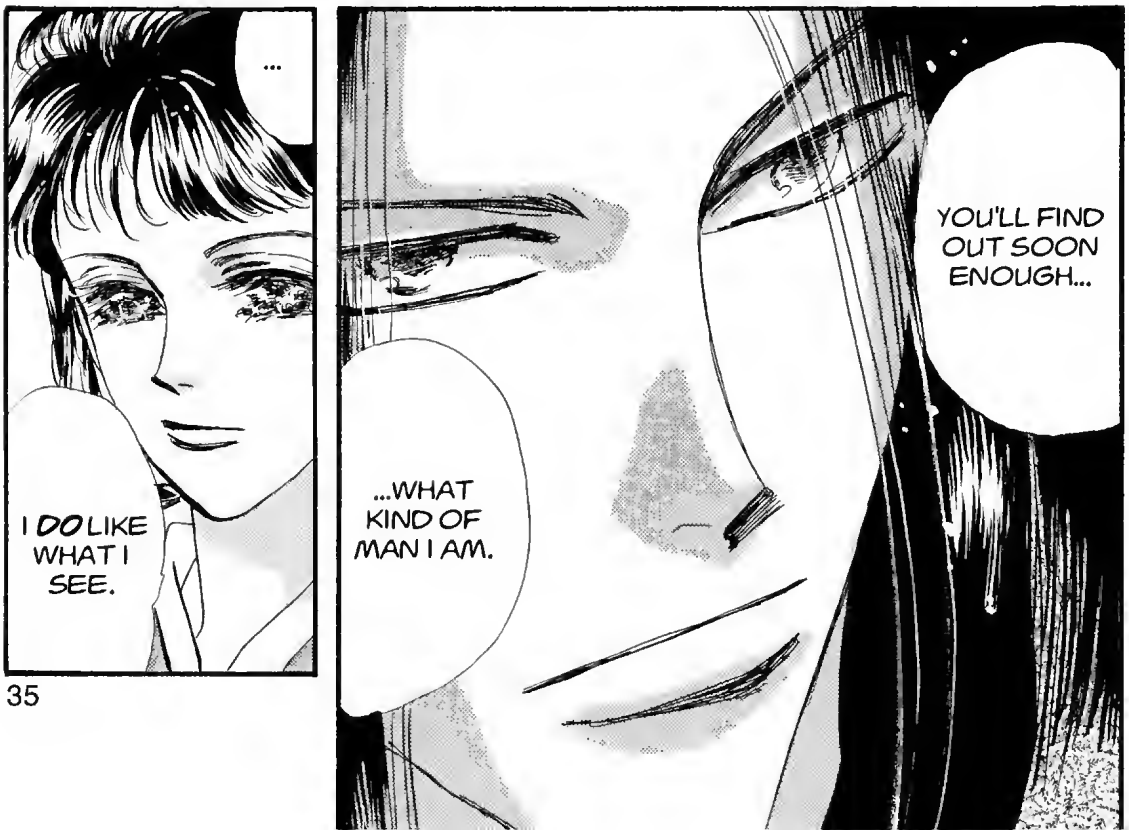
DON'T GROW UP...
ALL BY YOURSELF.
...BUT I'M THE ONE...
...WHO'S DEPENDIN' ON YOU.
HIJI-RI.
WHEN ARE YOU COMIN' HOME?
I WANT YOU TO GO TO CENTRAL...
AS THE KISHU REP.
AND YOU SHOULD GO TO MT. KOYA TO SAY HELLO TO YOUR FIANCÉE.
DO AS I SAY!
THEY CAN'T DECIDE WHO I'M GOING TO MARRY!
AND YET...
NOT JUST BECAUSE NACHI GOT HIMSELF A GIRL-FRIEND.
...I WAS CURIOUS.

EX-
CUSE
ME!
IS THE
LORD'S
MANSION
UP
AHEAD?
RIGHT
THIS
WAY.

!?
YOU'RE HIJIRI, AREN'T YOU?
YOU TRYIN' TO MAKE ME GAPE LIKE A FISH, TOO?
DID...DID YOU LIVE IN THE OCEAN A LONG TIME AGO?
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU CATCHIN' FLIES WITH THAT MOUTH?
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I DON'T LIKE IDIOTS.
HMPH.
SHF
SHF
SHF
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
DON'T WORRY.
NEI-THER DO I.
SHF

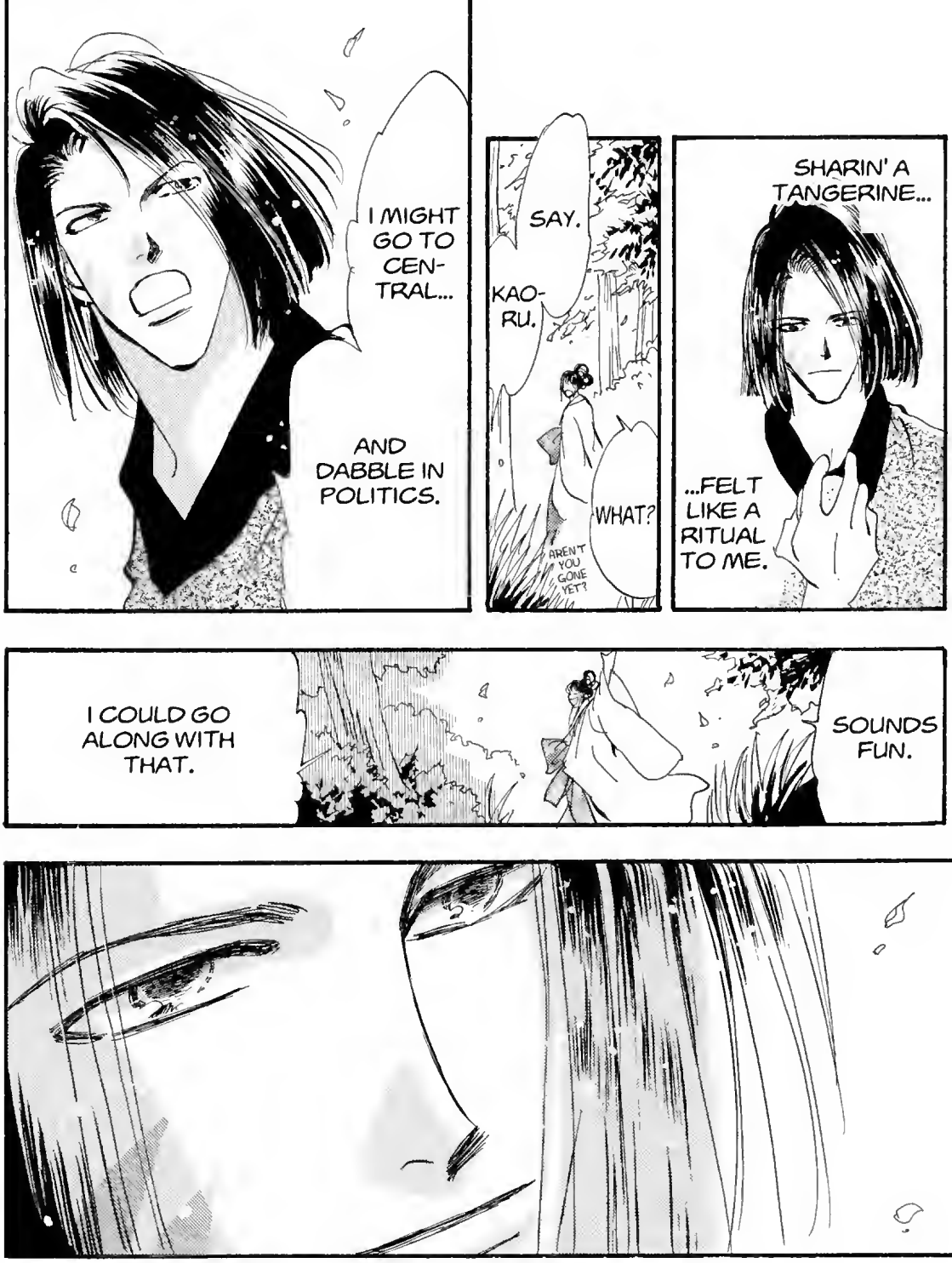

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS, BUT...
I AGREE.
CALL ME WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
DO YOU REALLY NEED THE "KO"?
"KAORU" IS A FINE NAME BY ITSELF.
THAT'S WHAT I'D CALL YOU.
YOU SHOULD'VE ASKED YOUR FATHER...
...AGES AGO! IT'S KAORU-KO.

I'VE GOT HIGH STANDARDS.
NOT 'TIL I FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF MAN HE IS.
I WON'T MARRY A MAN MY PARENTS CHOSE FOR ME.


...
I DO LIKE WHAT I SEE.
...WHAT KIND OF MAN I AM.
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH...

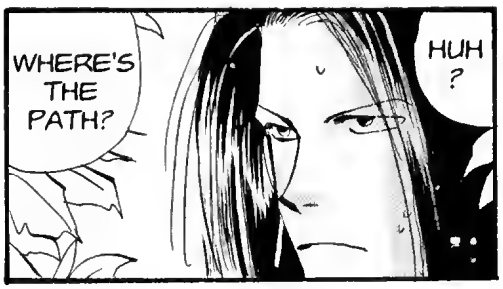
YES, IT IS.
IT'S ALL IN THE HEART.
LOOKS DON'T MAKE A MAN.
...BEAUTY DOESN'T MAKE A WOMAN, EITHER.
AND JUST SO YOU KNOW...
SHE
I'M GOIN' HOME.
SAY HI TO YOUR DAD.
I JUST CAME TO SEE YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU CAME TO VISIT.
THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH.
YES, IT IS.
IT'S ALL IN HER HEART.

THERE'S A SHORTCUT DOWN HERE.
BE SURE TO BE DOWN THE MOUNTAIN BEFORE SUNSET.
I FELT LIKE...
...I'D JUST MADE IT HOME FROM A LONG SEA VOYAGE.
THIS IS FROM OUR SELECT HARVEST.
HERE, HAVE HALF.
MAY-BE I DID.
WHO KNOWS?
SHLP
YOU DID LIVE IN THE OCEAN, DIDN'T YOU?

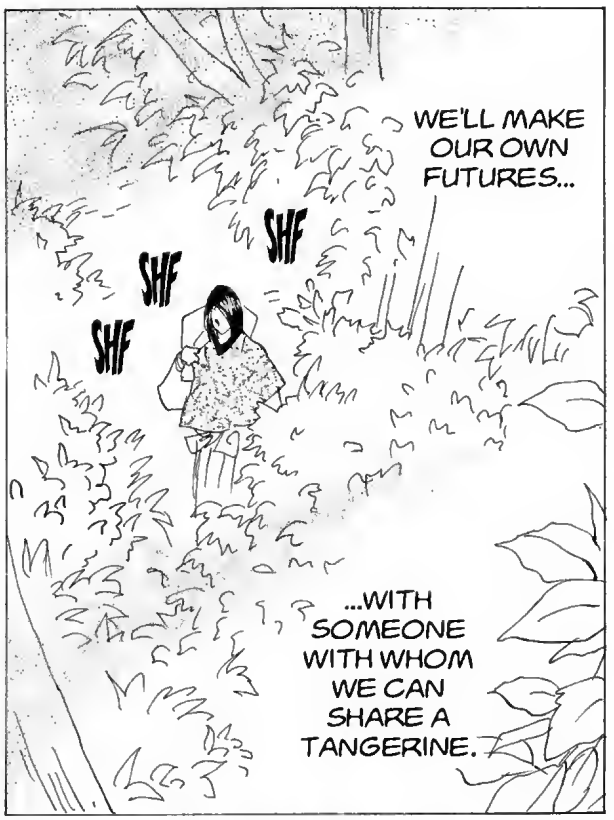


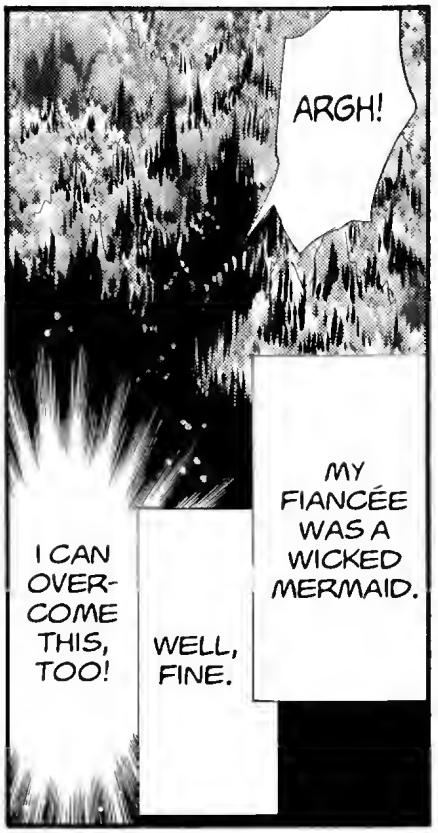
I GUESS THAT MEANS WE'RE GONNA MAKE OUR OWN SEPARATE MEMORIES.

WE'RE ALL GROWIN' UP, NACHI.


WHERE'S THE PATH?
HUH?

AND? HE LEFT AL-READY?
I MET HIJIRI.
I SHOWED HIM THE "SHORT-CUT."


WE'LL MAKE OUR OWN FUTURES...
SHF
SHF
SHF
...WITH SOMEONE WITH WHOM WE CAN SHARE A TANGERINE.


ARGH!
MY FIANCÉE WAS A WICKED MERMAID.
I CAN OVER-COME THIS, TOO!
WELL, FINE.

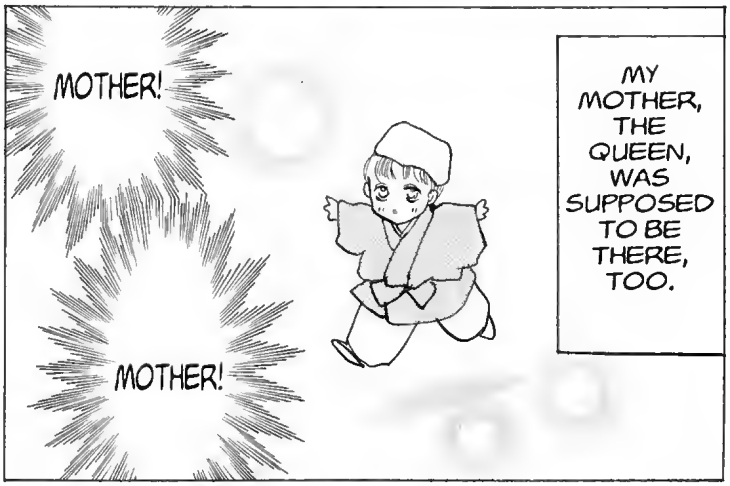
ANOTHER OF YOUR PRANKS!
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU'VE LED ASTRAY, KAORUKO?

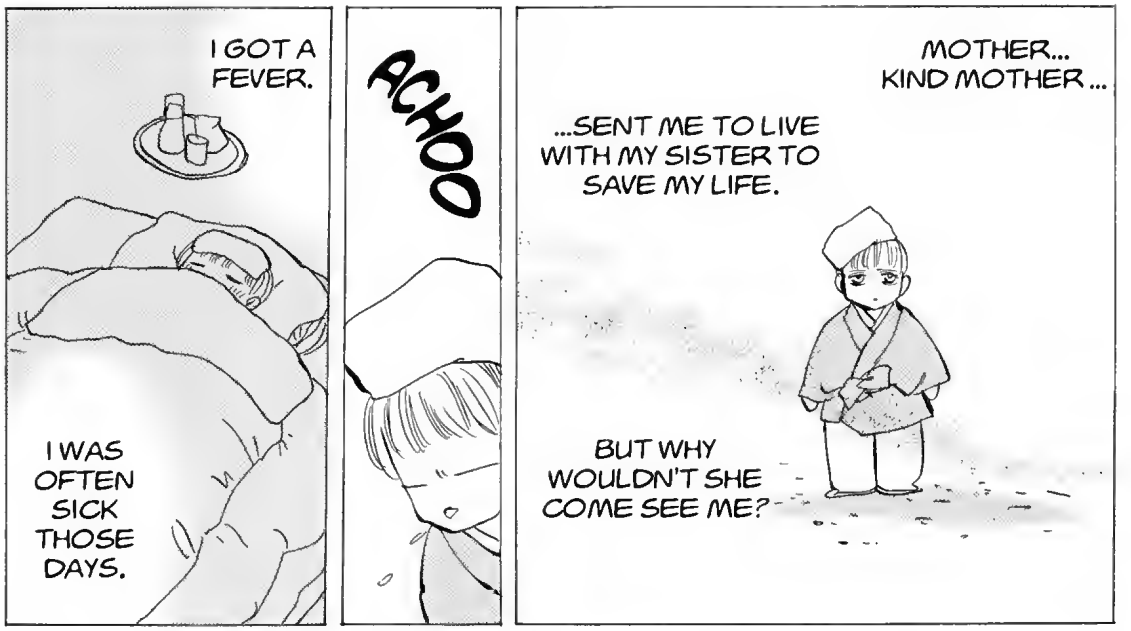
HEE
THOUGH IT'S JUST A GAME TRAIL.

NAKAMA: END.

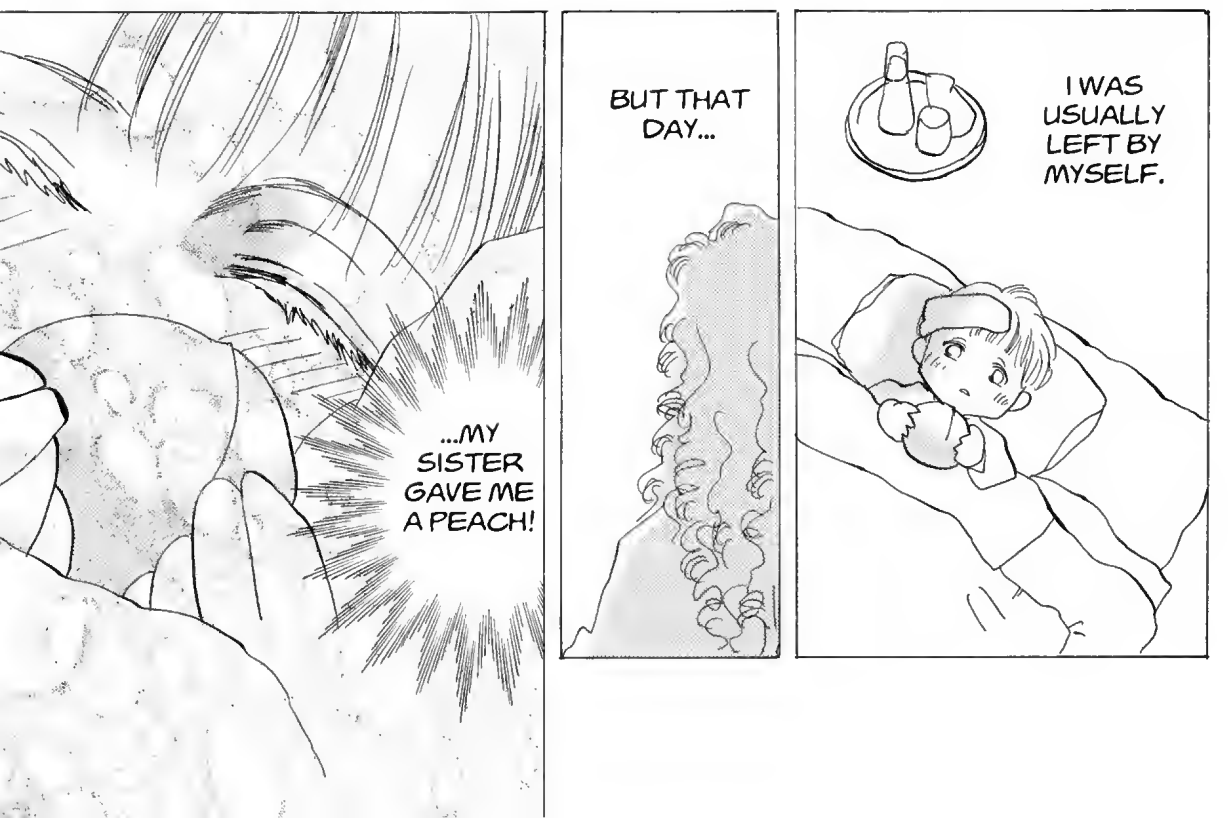
DAKARA (ダカラ) BECAUSE...

AZURE STORY: PEACH



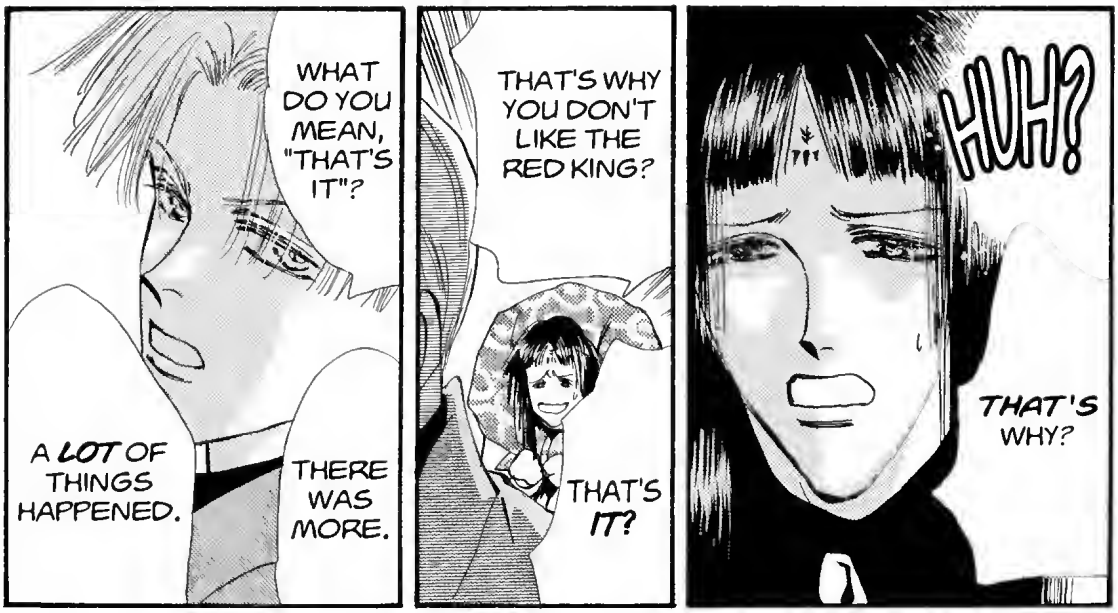

I GOT A FEVER.
I WAS OFTEN SICK THOSE DAYS.
ACHOO
MOTHER... KIND MOTHER...
...SENT ME TO LIVE WITH MY SISTER TO SAVE MY LIFE.
BUT WHY WOULDN'T SHE COME SEE ME?

SICK AGAIN? WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU?


...MY SISTER GAVE ME A PEACH!
BUT THAT DAY...
I WAS USUALLY LEFT BY MYSELF.

BO
I WANTED TO SAVE IT.
I KEPT MY PEACH ...
THE PEACH GINKO GAVE ME!
...EVEN AFTER I GOT BETTER.
HEY, DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
SPLAT

HA
HA
I KNEW IT HAD ALREADY GONE SOFT, BUT...
BUT ...
I DIDN'T THROW IT AWAY...
ASAGI?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE PEACHES, YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SO.
I WON'T GIVE YOU ANY AGAIN.
...I LEARNED THAT THE BOY WAS MY HALF BROTHER, SHURI.
LATER...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THAT'S IT"?
A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED.
THERE WAS MORE.
THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T LIKE THE RED KING?
THAT'S IT?
HUH?
THAT'S WHY?

...WE WON'T GO TO KUMANO.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO LAUGH AT ME...
WHAT?
PFFT
BUT IT'S PRETTY FUNNY ...

LOOK, LORD ASAGI. THAT'S NACHI FALLS...
I WONDER HOW EVERY-ONE'S DOING.
I KNOW.
HMPH.
YOU WANT TO SHOW OFF YOUR FIRST POTTERY PIECES.
YOU'RE AWFULLY FRESH LATELY.
ARE YOU KIDDING? WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO GO. I KNOW YOU...

DAKARA: END.

HELLO!

Thank you for your continuing support even after the end of BASARA's main story! I'm sorry I couldn't make space to write a message in Vol. 25! ;;
Many people thought that was the end of BASARA! ;; Sorry. There will be another volume of extra side stories. We'll have 27 volumes in all. Please stick with me until the very end! ♡ ;;

The next story, KATANA, takes place 100 years before Sarasa's story. It's the era of their great-grandparents! You can imagine all sorts of stories about what happened in the time between these characters and Sarasa's gang. ♡ ;;

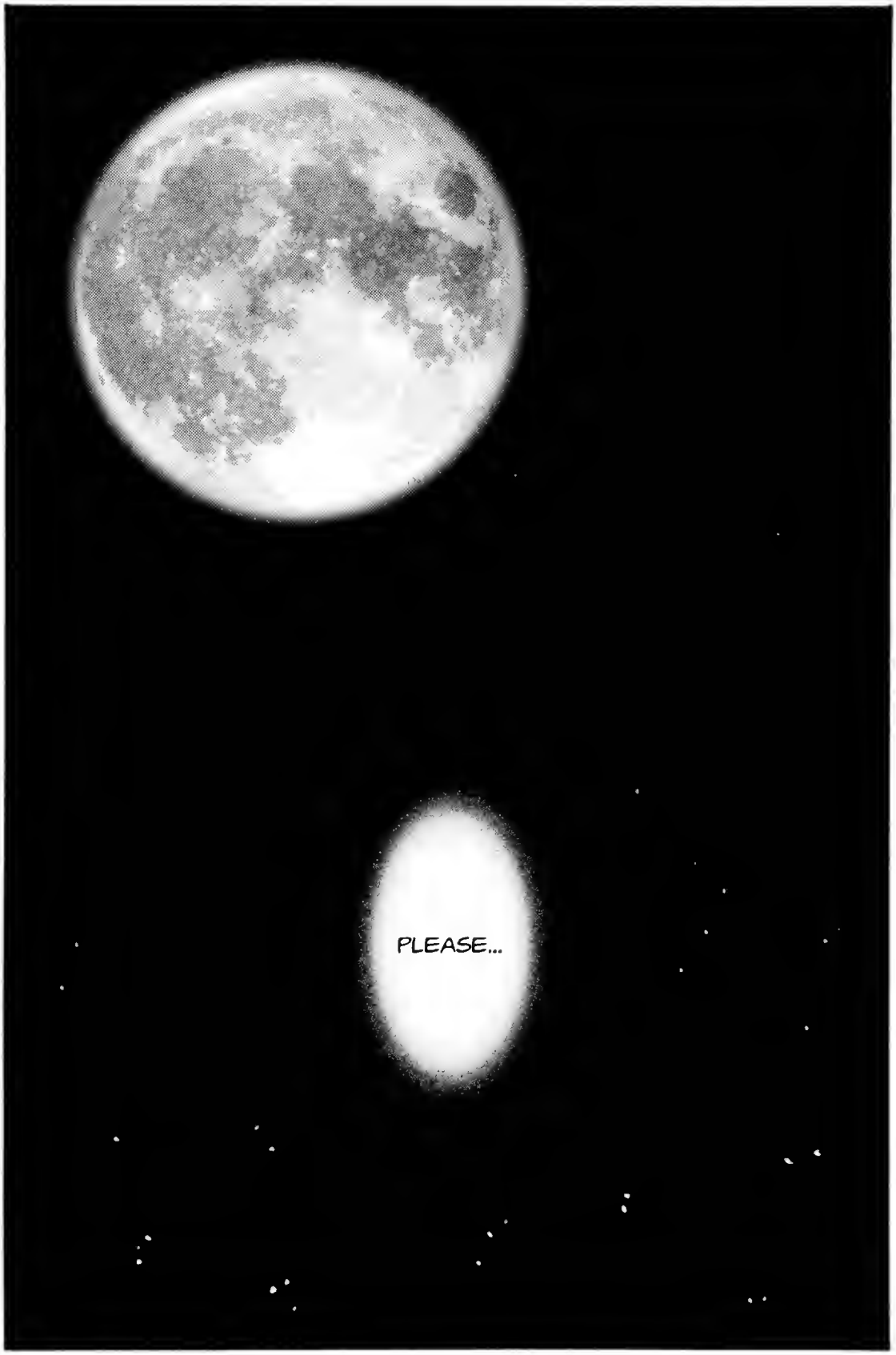
Isn't it fun? See you later! ♡

YUMI TAMURA

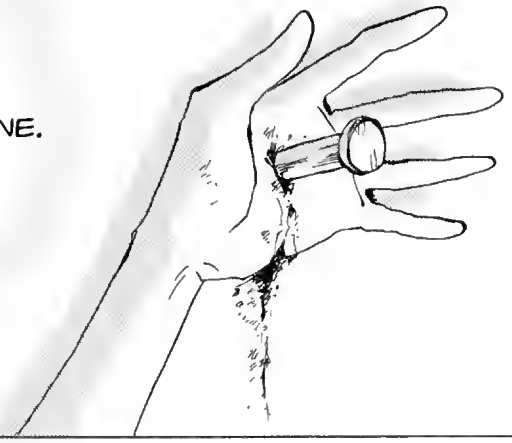
I love you all! ♡

BASARA (バサラ) APPENDIX 5

RAINBOW STORY: GINGKO

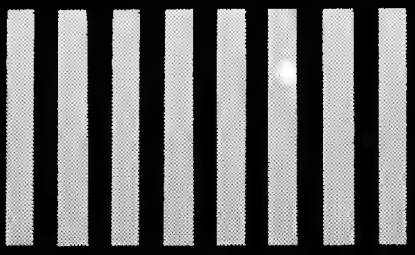

PLEASE...

ANYONE.



I NEED SOMEONE.

WHAT DO I WANT? SOMEONE TO HOLD ME GENTLY?

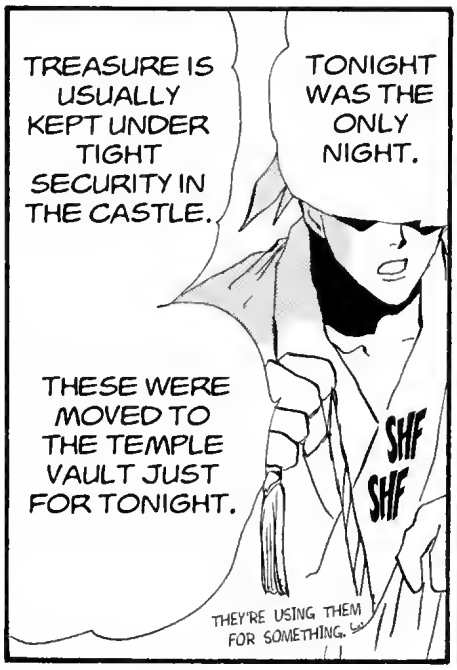


SOMEONE TO FEED ME AND CARE FOR ME?

I NEED SOMETHING ELSE.

NO, THIS IS DIFFERENT.

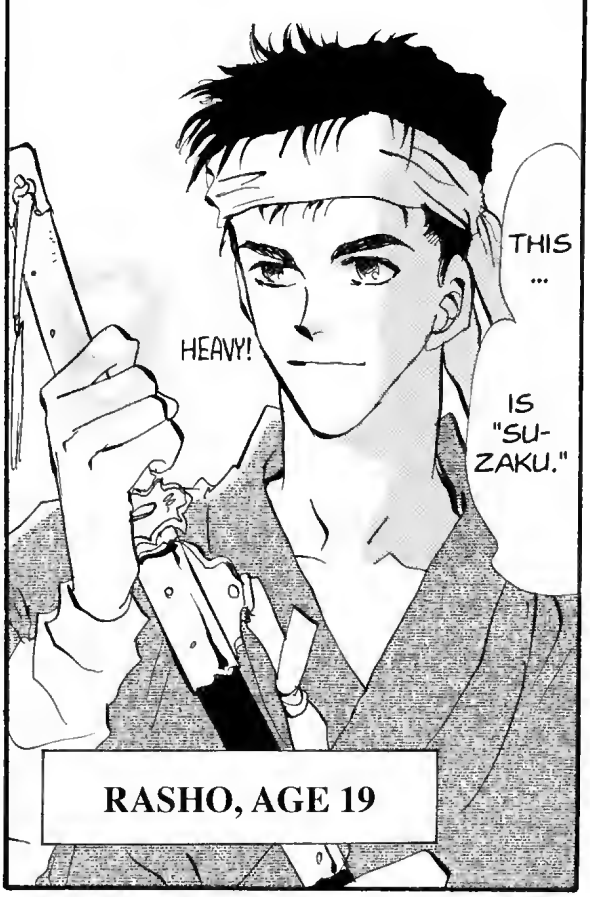
FOUND THEM!
SHH!
KTUNK
OOO!
HERE THEY ARE.


TREASURE IS USUALLY KEPT UNDER TIGHT SECURITY IN THE CASTLE.
TONIGHT WAS THE ONLY NIGHT.
THESE WERE MOVED TO THE TEMPLE VAULT JUST FOR TONIGHT.
SHF
SHF
THEY'RE USING THEM FOR SOMETHING.

WHY ON EARTH DID WE HAVE TO BREAK IN ON A NIGHT...
SHF
WE HAD NO CHOICE.
WHEN THE MOON IS SO FULL AND BRIGHT?

ALL RIGHT, THEN!
THE FOUR TREASURED SWORDS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY!
TAKE ANY ONE YOU LIKE.
THEY'RE OURS NOW.

THIS ONE'S CALLED "SEIRYU."
MINE.
NABEZO TENMANYA
AGE 22


THIS ...
HEAVY!
IS "SU-ZAKU."
RASHO, AGE 19

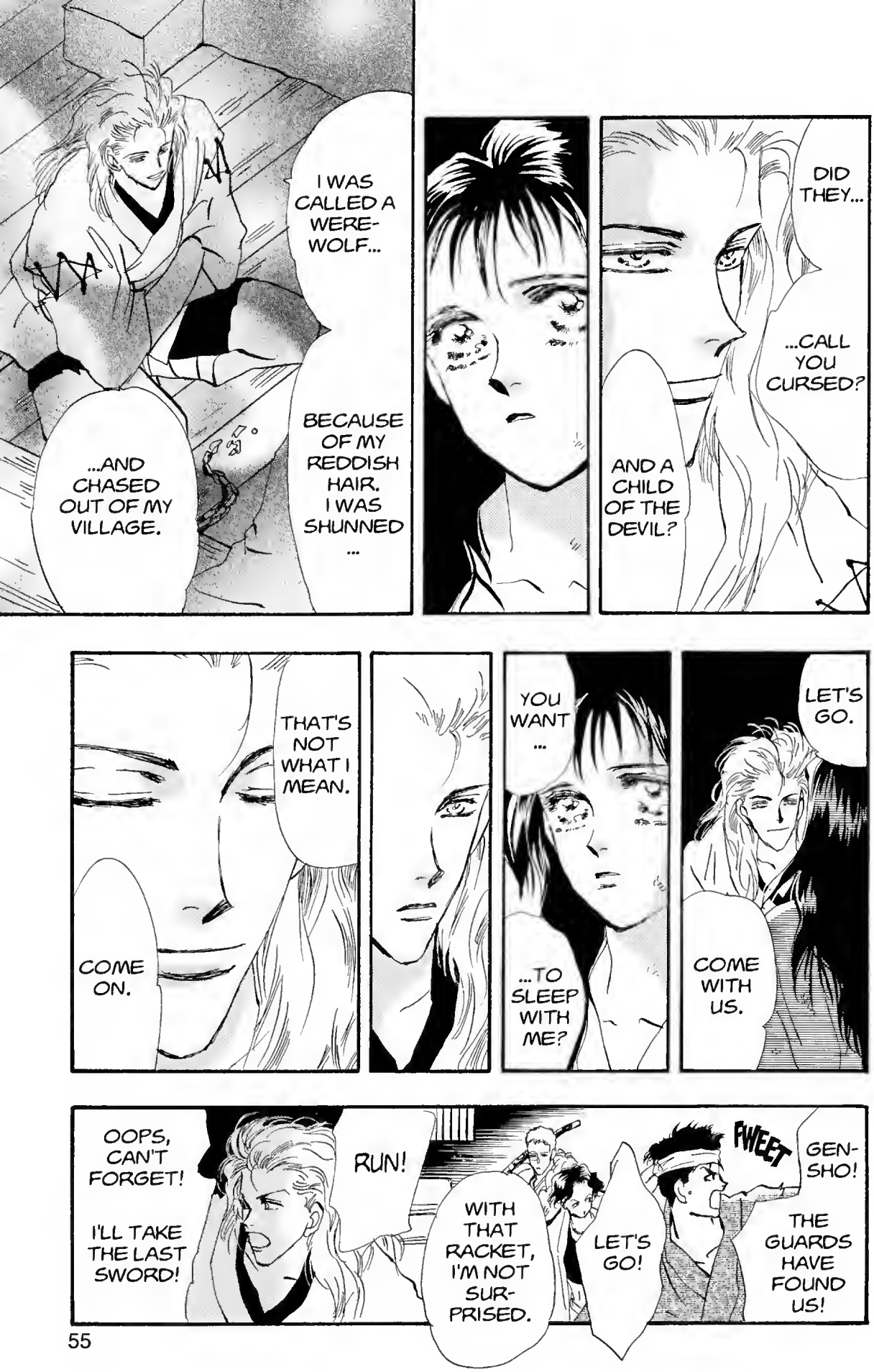
TSH
WHO'S THERE ?
WHAT?

THEN I'LL TAKE THE LAST...
AH!

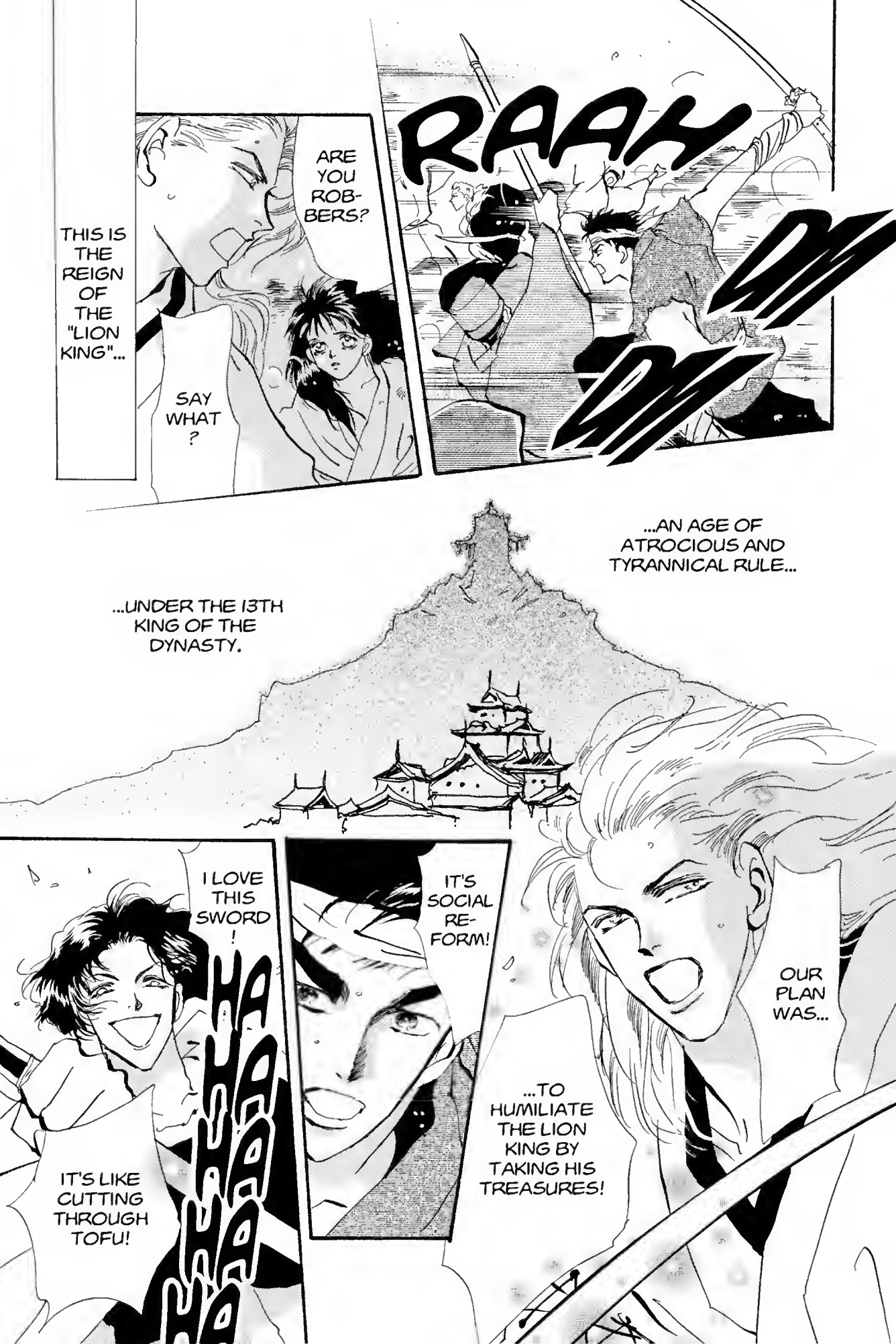
SO AUSTERE!
"GENBU"? I LIKE IT!
THE BLACK LUSTER MAKES MY SPINE TINGLE!
ASAHIKO
AGE 17

SOMEONE...
A GIRL?
IS SHE STILL ALIVE?
ANYONE...
ANYONE!
RASHO, HELP ME!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WE'LL GET YOU DOWN!

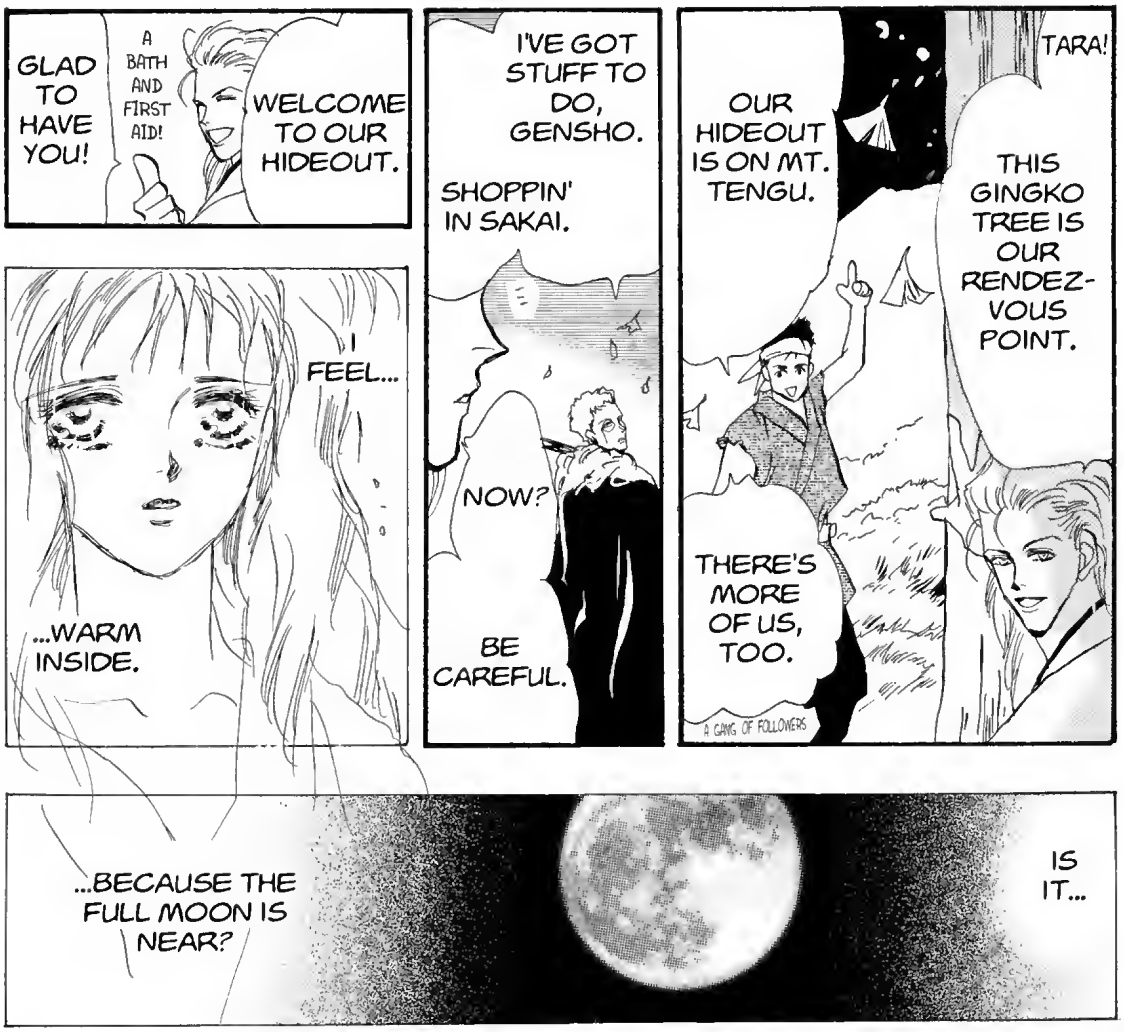
KLNK
WHAT?
DON'T THEY USE DOLLS FOR THAT?
I'M TARA.
THEY ...
...TO WARD OFF BAD LUCK.
THEY'RE GOING TO SEND ME DOWN THE RIVER TOMORROW IN A CEREMONY ...
I'M GENSHO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
GUESS SHE WAS LEFT HERE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
TNK
I HATE THE ROYAL FAMILY! THEY TREAT PEOPLE LIKE OBJECTS!
KNK
KNK
SO WHAT?
KSSH
GENSHO.
YOU'RE MAKING A LOT OF NOISE.
THEY SAID IT WAS MY FAULT.
MY HAIR'S ALL STIFF AND WIRY...
I'M NOT NORMAL...
KLAK
KLAK
NO PARENTS.
THERE WAS A FLASH FLOOD IN MY VILLAGE ON THE DAY I WAS BORN.
EVERYONE DIED.
SKRK
HOLD ON. THIS'LL HURT.
WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS? DIDN'T ANYONE TRY TO STOP THIS?


I WAS CALLED A WERE-WOLF...
BECAUSE OF MY REDDISH HAIR. I WAS SHUNNED ...
...AND CHASED OUT OF MY VILLAGE.
DID THEY...
...CALL YOU CURSED?
AND A CHILD OF THE DEVIL?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
COME ON.
YOU WANT ...
...TO SLEEP WITH ME?
LET'S GO.
COME WITH US.
OOPS, CAN'T FORGET!
I'LL TAKE THE LAST SWORD!
RUN!
WITH THAT RACKET, I'M NOT SUR-PRISED.
LET'S GO!
PWEET
GEN-SHO!
THE GUARDS HAVE FOUND US!

THE SWORD OF BYAKKO, THE "WHITE TIGER"!
GENSHO, AGE 18
YOU ALL KNOW WHERE TO MEET!
TARA, STAY WITH ME!
TM
TM
WOMEN ARE THE SOURCE OF ALL PROB-LEMS.
SHUT UP!
I THINK WE'VE MADE...
...OUR OWN SHARE OF PROBLEMS!
WHOA

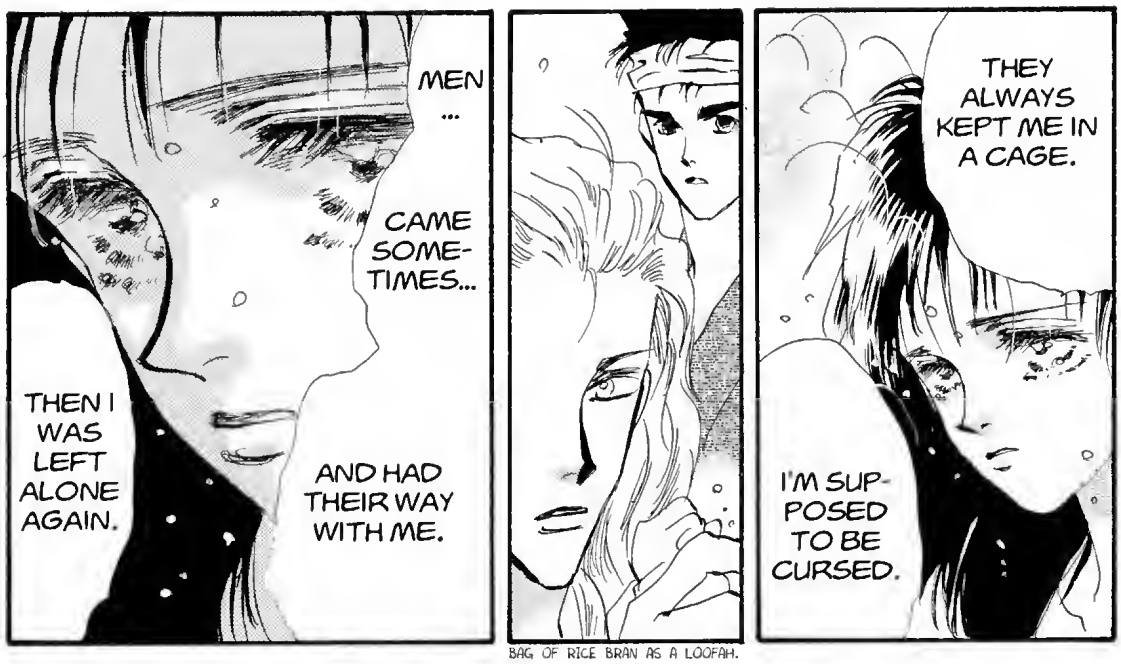

THIS IS THE REIGN OF THE "LION KING"...
ARE YOU ROB-BERS?
SAY WHAT ?
RAAH
...AN AGE OF ATROCIOUS AND TYRANNICAL RULE...
...UNDER THE 13TH KING OF THE DYNASTY.
OUR PLAN WAS...
...TO HUMILIATE THE LION KING BY TAKING HIS TREASURES!
IT'S SOCIAL RE-FORM!
I LOVE THIS SWORD !
HA HA HA HA
IT'S LIKE CUTTING THROUGH TOFU!

HA HA HA HA HA
THIS IS CRAZY GOOD!
ASA-HIKO!
QUIET DOWN!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S CRAZY.
COME ON.
TARA, THIS WAY!
IS HE THE ONE?
...WARM INSIDE.
I FEEL...
I NEED SOME-ONE.
ANY-ONE.
SOMEONE TO WALK ALONGSIDE.
IS EVERY-ONE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH!



THEY'RE USING EMPTY TEMPLES AND ABANDONED HOUSES.

WHOA!
SORRY!
TARA, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DON'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT, RASHO.
HOT!
SKSH
OW...
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU DROWNING?
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A HOT BATH.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE?
I JUST WIPED MYSELF DOWN. SOMETIMES THEY TOOK ME TO A RIVER.
OKAY.
THIS BATH IS HEATED DIRECTLY OVER A FIRE.
YOU SINK THIS BOARD AND SIT ON IT.
IT'S A PLATFORM.
DON'T PARK YOUR BUTT OVER THE HOLE.
LIKE SO.
GENSHO!
YOU LECH! SHE'S NAKED!
I HAVE TO WATCH ...
YOU.
GET OUT, THEN.


MEN ...
CAME SOME-TIMES...
THEN I WAS LEFT ALONE AGAIN.
AND HAD THEIR WAY WITH ME.
BAG OF RICE BRAN AS A LOOFAH.
THEY ALWAYS KEPT ME IN A CAGE.
I'M SUP-POSED TO BE CURSED.

YOU'RE ONLY A YEAR YOUNGER THAN US!
THIS IS THE FISH I CAUGHT!
LET'S EAT.
SOUP'S ON!
WHOA!
PERVS!
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU OLD MEN FOR A MINUTE!
THIS IS GOOD SOAP. TENMANYA GOT IT FROM SAKAI.
PLASH
LET'S CLEAN YOU UP.
I'LL WASH YOUR HAIR FOR YOU.
IT STINGS MY EYES.
THEN CLOSE THEM.

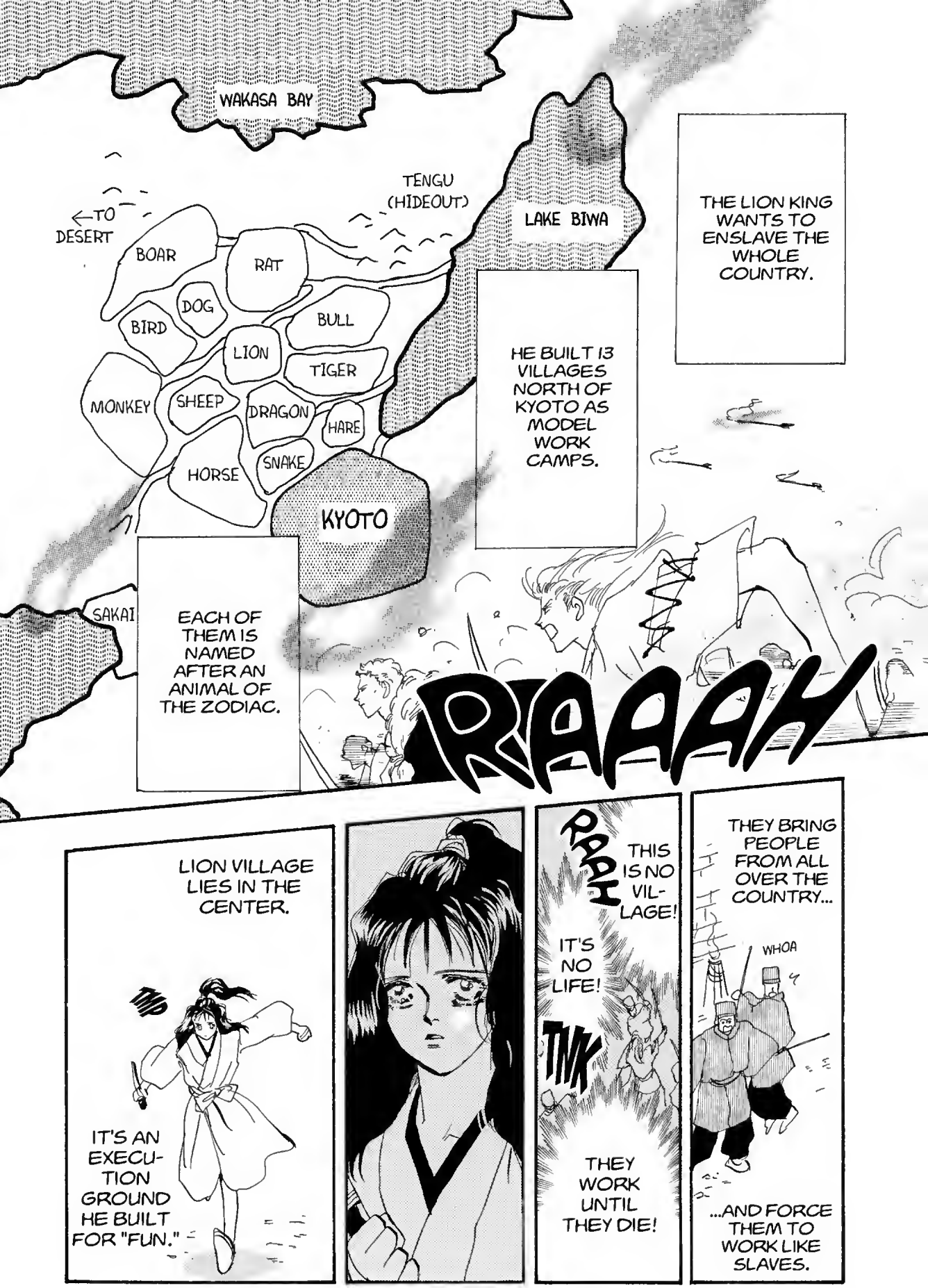
HEY!
NICE!
LOOKING GOOD!
HERE.
TRY THIS ON.
IT'S BORROWED, BUT...
WE HAVE SEVERAL.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
BUT ...
ISN'T THAT ...
NG
HERE.
GO LIKE THIS.
YOU SHOULD SMILE, THEN.
...YOU'VE NEVER SMILED BEFORE.
DON'T TELL ME...
I DO.
IT'S DRY AND SMELLS NICE.
HUH?
DON'T YOU LIKE IT?

I ALSO BEEFED UP OUR WAR FUNDS...
BY SELLING A COUPLE OF THE BUDDHA STATUES FROM THE VAULT.
HEY!
YOU WENT TO BUY BOOZE?
THIS IS A DAY FOR CELEBRATION.
HI.
I'M BACK.
SAKE
TENMANYA WAS STUDYING TO BE A PRIEST, BELIEVE IT OR NOT. HE FLUNKED OUT.
IT'S MY "BLESSED RICE JUICE."
AND A THIEF!
SO COLD!
A CORRUPT PRIEST WHO DRINKS ALCOHOL AND EATS MEAT!
NOW THAT WE HAVE SWORDS ...
...WHAT'S SOCIAL REFORM PHASE TWO, GENSHO?
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO SHOW ANY BACKBONE AGAINST THE KING...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SMILE ALL THE TIME.
...ARE THE MERCHANTS OF SAKAI.
I DIDN'T FAIL. I QUIT.
THE TEMPLES AND SHRINES ONLY DO THE KING'S BIDDING.
THERE'S NO GOD ANYWHERE IN THIS WORLD.
THEY'VE BEEN REDUCED TO AN EXTORTION RING THAT SHAKES DOWN THE COMMONERS FOR "TAXES."

WE STORM LION VILLAGE!
LION
WAAH!
YEEK!
RR
RR

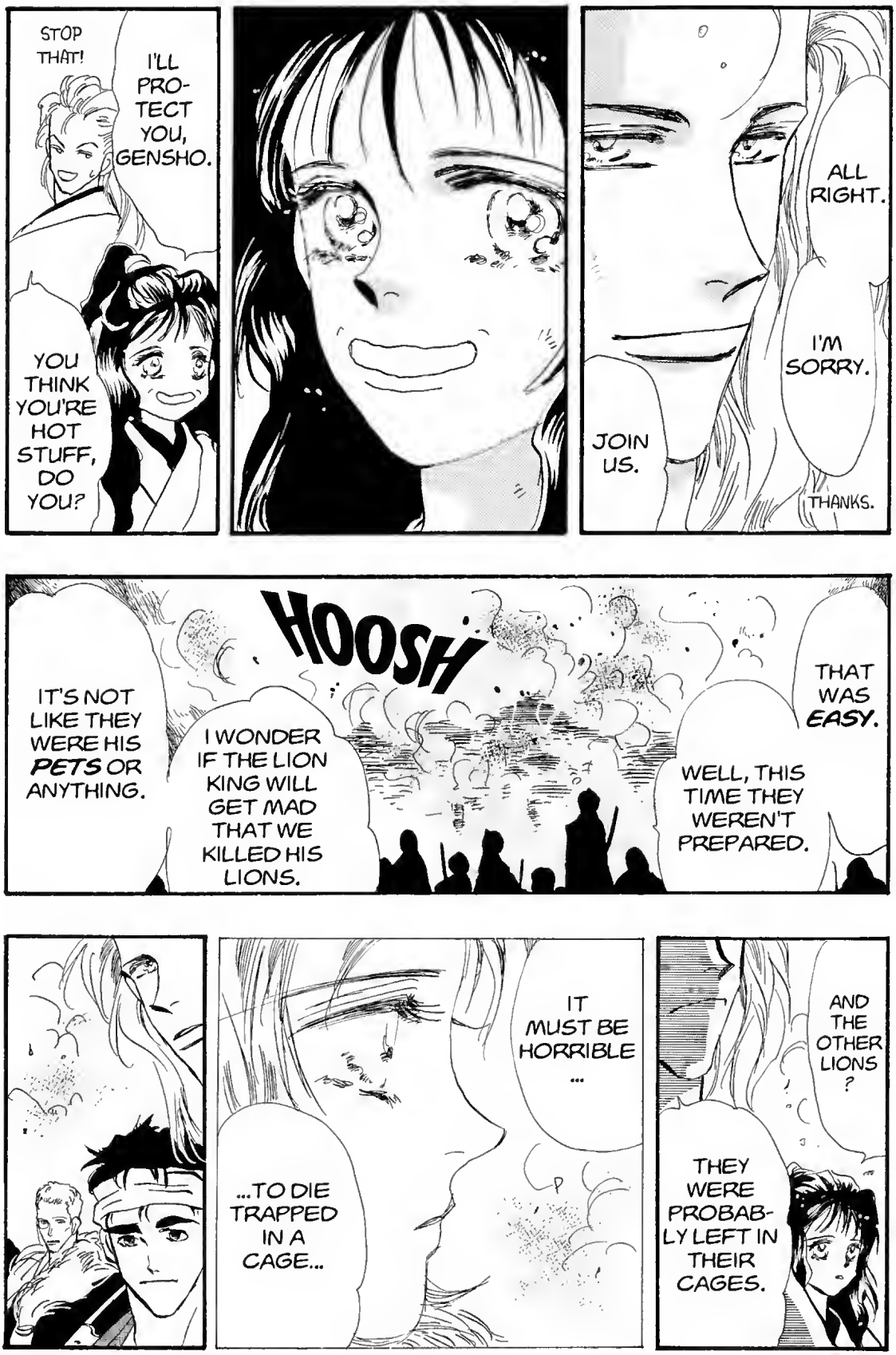
BUT THEY'RE NOT CRIMI-NALS.
THEY'RE EITHER WORKERS WHO TRIED TO ESCAPE HARD LABOR...
OR SICK AND ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO CAN'T WORK ANYMORE.
THEY HOLD EXECUTIONS LIKE THAT HERE EVERY DAY.
GYAAH
THIS IS HOW THE LION KING GOT HIS NAME.

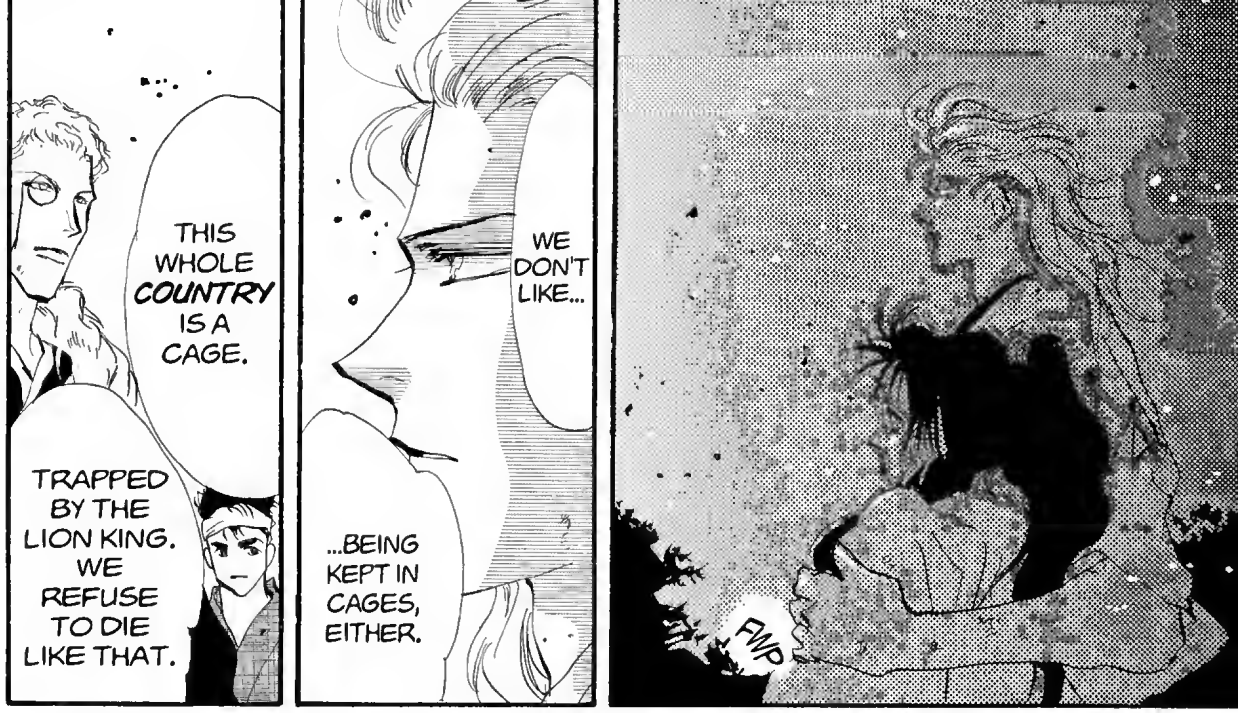
IT'S A DECLARATION OF WAR!
WE'LL STAMP OUT THIS ATROCITY.
TO TEACH THE KING A LESSON...
TARA!
WOO HOO!
YOU WAIT HERE. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
WILL THEY EVEN HAVE THE COURAGE TO LET THEM OUT OF THEIR CAGES? FLY!
LIONS AREN'T DOGS.
FOLLOWERS
WHAT IF THEY LET THE LIONS LOOSE?
LET'S GO, PEOPLE!
ZFF
ONE?
YOUR ONE REDEEMING QUALITY!
GOOD SHOT!
WOO!
FLY!
BMF


WAKASA BAY
TENGU (HIDEOUT)
LAKE BIWA
←TO DESERT
BOAR
RAT
DOG
BIRD
BULL
LION
TIGER
MONKEY
SHEEP
DRAGON
HARE
HORSE
SNAKE
KYOTO
SAKAI
THE LION KING WANTS TO ENSLAVE THE WHOLE COUNTRY.
HE BUILT 13 VILLAGES NORTH OF KYOTO AS MODEL WORK CAMPS.
EACH OF THEM IS NAMED AFTER AN ANIMAL OF THE ZODIAC.
RAAAH
LION VILLAGE LIES IN THE CENTER.
IT'S AN EXECUTION GROUND HE BUILT FOR "FUN."
RAAH
THIS IS NO VILLAGE!
IT'S NO LIFE!
THEY WORK UNTIL THEY DIE!
THEY BRING PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY...
WHOA
...AND FORCE THEM TO WORK LIKE SLAVES.

SST
RIP
HA HA HA
HSH
COME ON!
YAH YAH YAH YAH YAH YAH!
MY HANDS ARE SLIP-PING!
THP
HA HA HA
ZSH
BRING IT ON!
WIPE THEM OFF!
SLIKK
DON'T LET THEM USE THE BUILDINGS AS A FORTRESS!
YEAH!
BURN THE PLACE DOWN!
GR
AW
GENSHO!
GRR

SORRY, MR. LION.


STOP THAT!
I'LL PRO-TECT YOU, GENSHO.
YOU THINK YOU'RE HOT STUFF, DO YOU?
ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY.
JOIN US.
THANKS.
HOOSH
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WERE HIS PETS OR ANYTHING.
I WONDER IF THE LION KING WILL GET MAD THAT WE KILLED HIS LIONS.
WELL, THIS TIME THEY WEREN'T PREPARED.
THAT WAS EASY.
IT MUST BE HORRIBLE ...
...TO DIE TRAPPED IN A CAGE...
AND THE OTHER LIONS?
THEY WERE PROBAB-LY LEFT IN THEIR CAGES.

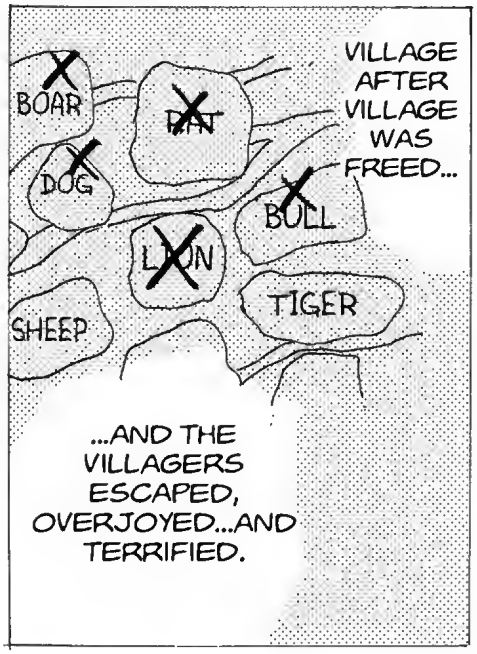

THIS WHOLE COUNTRY IS A CAGE.
TRAPPED BY THE LION KING. WE REFUSE TO DIE LIKE THAT.
WE DON'T LIKE...
...BEING KEPT IN CAGES, EITHER.
FWP

I FEEL A FIRE WITHIN.
I SWEAR ...
WE'LL FREE EVERYONE IN THESE VILLAGES.
COVERED IN BLOOD, BATHED IN FLAMES...

WE SWEAR IT.
I CAN BE...
...A PART OF THEM.

HERE.
GLOVES FOR YOU.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE POINTLESS THAN MAKING PEOPLE WORK UNTIL THEY DROP.
NOW YOUR HANDS WON'T GET SLIPPERY.
THEY BUILD LEVEES AND IRRIGATION TRENCHES HERE.
RAAH
A LOT OF THE VILLAGERS HAVE DIED FROM EXHAUSTION.
RAT
LION
WE ADVANCED EASILY.
NEXT UP, RAT VILLAGE!
...AS THE OTHERS.
THE SAME ...
HERE, TARA.
IT'S THE LION YOU TOOK DOWN.
I SOLD THE FUR FOR A PROFIT.
HERE.
LION SKIN.
SHOULD'VE GOTTEN MORE.
SO COLD.
RAAAAAAH
WE'RE A TEAM.

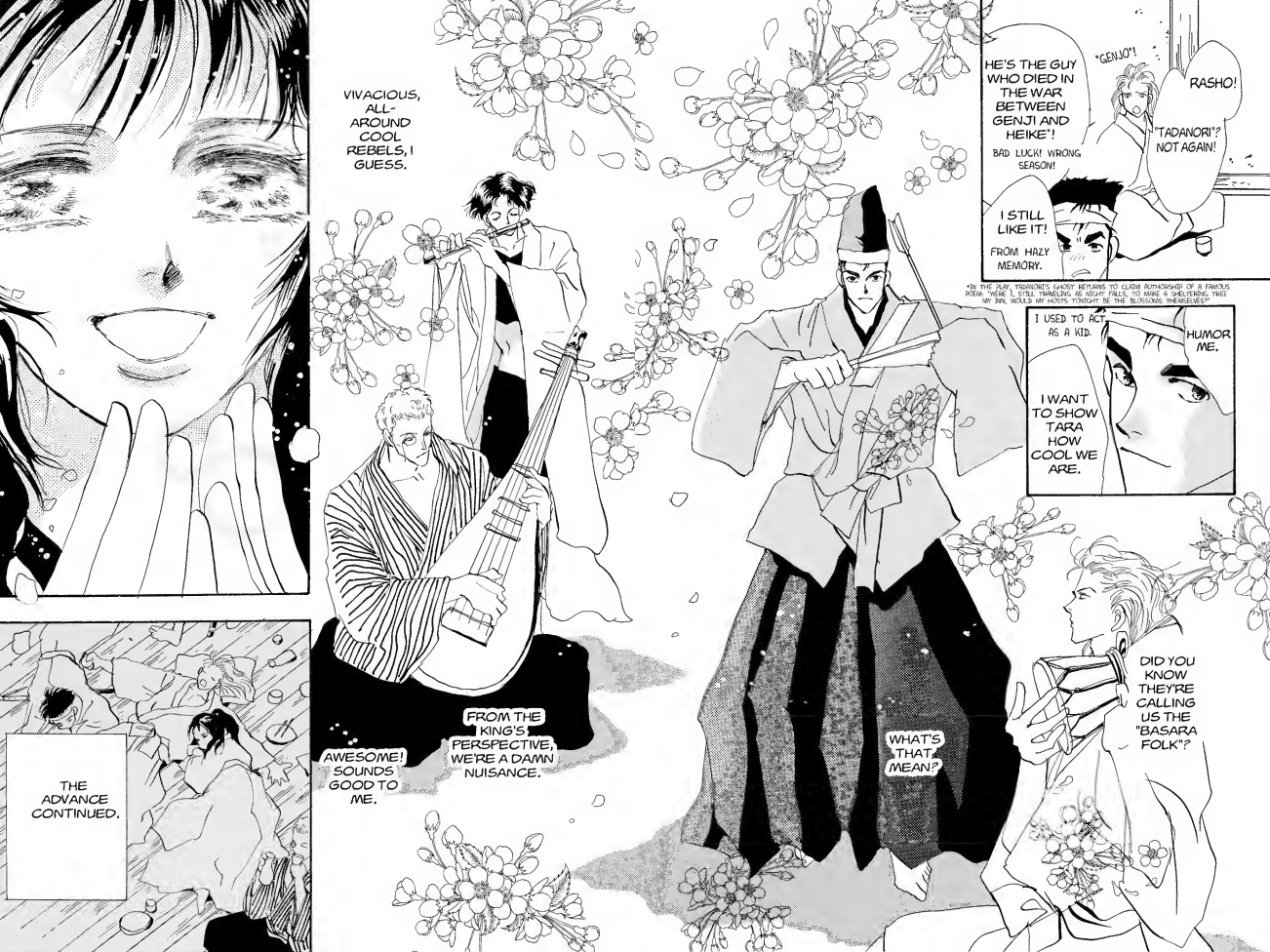
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
TARA'S REALLY SOME-THING!
THE GODDESS OF VICTORY!
YOU KNOW WHAT THE OTHERS ARE CALLING HER?
HUH, GEN-SHO?
GREAT, HUH?
AND ...
THEY CALL HIM "RUNS WITH SCISSORS."
MAKES SENSE.


BOAR
RAT
DOG
BULL
LION
TIGER
SHEEP
VILLAGE AFTER VILLAGE WAS FREED...
...AND THE VILLAGERS ESCAPED, OVERJOYED...AND TERRIFIED.

I GET SO TURNED ON.
IT FEELS SO GOOD TO KILL BAD GUYS.
ONLY YOU WOULD FEEL THAT WAY.
IDIOT.

I'M TIRED.
HFF HFF HFF
DON'T YOU THINK I GET TIRED, TOO?
CARRY ME, TEN-MANYA.

WILL YOU LET ME WORK HERE?
I WAS IN RAT VILLAGE.
HM?
MIS-TER!
WHO'S THE CHIEF HERE?
VOLUNTEERS STARTED POURING IN.
WE'LL WORK!
...TELL ME, TEN-MANYA!
IF YOU NEED ANY-THING ...
COOK-ING IS MY JOB!
BACK OFF!
NO!
I'LL DO ANY SCUL-LERY WORK!
WE CAN'T DO EVERY-THING OUR-SELVES.
WE HAVE PLENTY OF OTHER ODD JOBS.
ALL RIGHT.
LET ME DO SOME GOOD.
I HAD A SON YOUR AGE...
BUT HE WAS BURIED ALIVE.
WE'RE PUTTING ON A NOH PLAY TO CELE-BRATE OUR VICTORIES!
TARA!
WATCH!
BACK STRAIGHT!
PERVERT!
I'LL DO LAUN-DRY, THEN.
TAKE IT ALL OFF!


VIVACIOUS, ALL-AROUND COOL REBELS, I GUESS.
HE'S THE GUY WHO DIED IN THE WAR BETWEEN GENJI AND HEIKE'!
BAD LUCK! WRONG SEASON!
"GENJO"!
RASHO!
"TADANORI"? NOT AGAIN!
I STILL LIKE IT!
FROM HAZY MEMORY.
*IN THE PLAY, TADANORI'S GHOST RETURNS TO CLAIM AUTHORSHIP OF A FAMOUS POEM: "HERE I, STILL TRAVELING AS NIGHT FALLS, TO MAKE A SHELTERING TREE MY INN, WOULD MY HOSTS TONIGHT BE THE BLOSSOMS THEMSELVES"
I USED TO ACT AS A KID.
HUMOR ME.
I WANT TO SHOW TARA HOW COOL WE ARE.
AWESOME! SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
FROM THE KING'S PERSPECTIVE, WE'RE A DAMN NUISANCE.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
DID YOU KNOW THEY'RE CALLING US THE "BASARA FOLK"?
THE ADVANCE CONTINUED.

CAN WE REALLY DO THIS?
DEFEAT THE KING?
THEY'RE SO WEAK, GENSHO!
WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK!
RAH RAH RAH
BY OURSELVES?
CHANGE THE COUNTRY?
YOU'RE ONE OF US!
WE CARE ABOUT YOU, TARA!
DON'T GO TOO FAR!
WATCH YOUR BACK!
TURN BACK IF YOU EVEN GET A SCRATCH!
TARA!
GEN-SHO!
AH

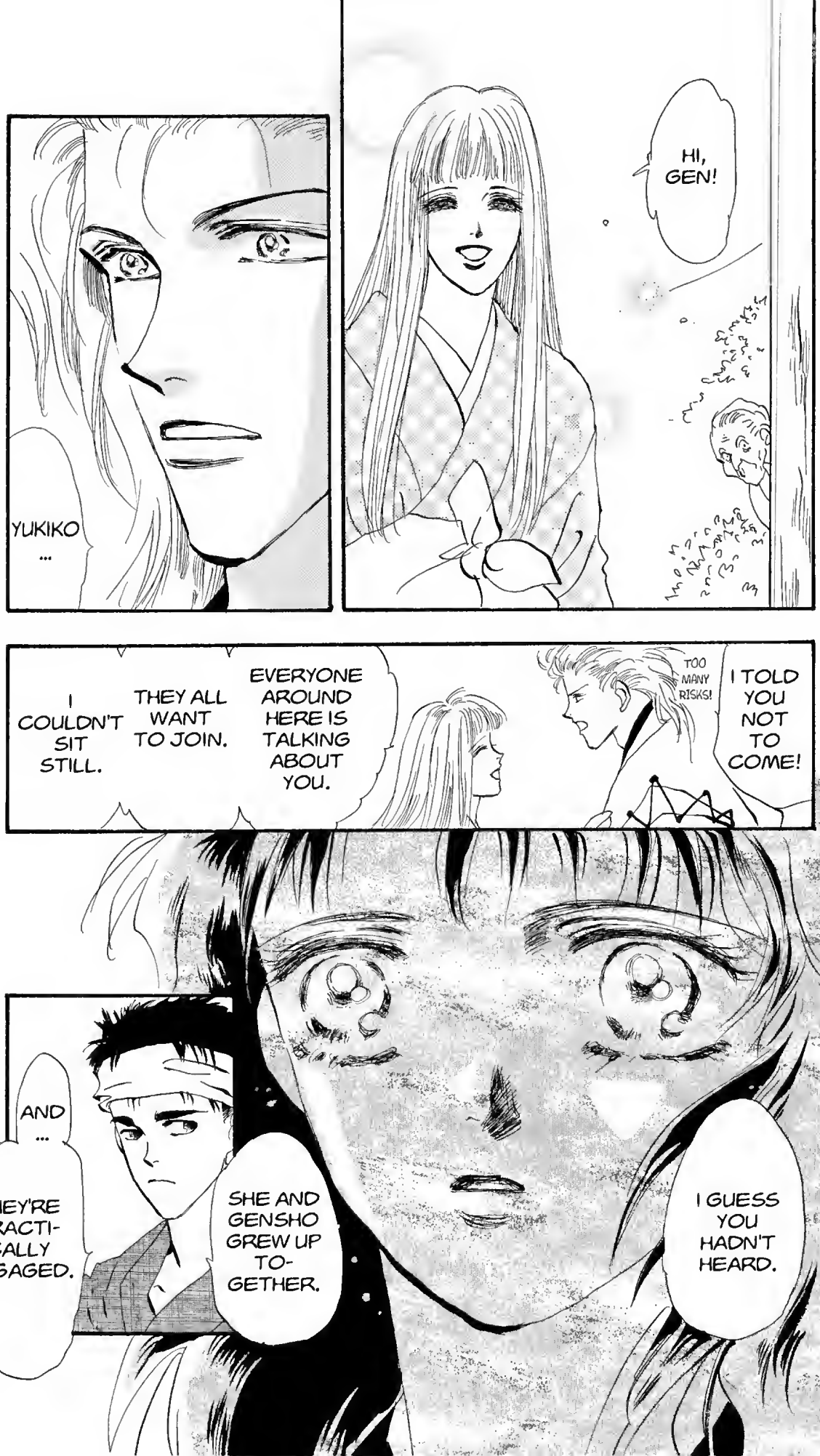
I DIDN'T KNOW IF LIFE HAD A POINT.
I NEVER KNEW WHAT TO DO.
NOBODY EVER SAID THEY CARED ABOUT ME BEFORE.
BUT HERE, I CAN BELONG.
I CAN KEEP GOING...
...WITH GENSHO.

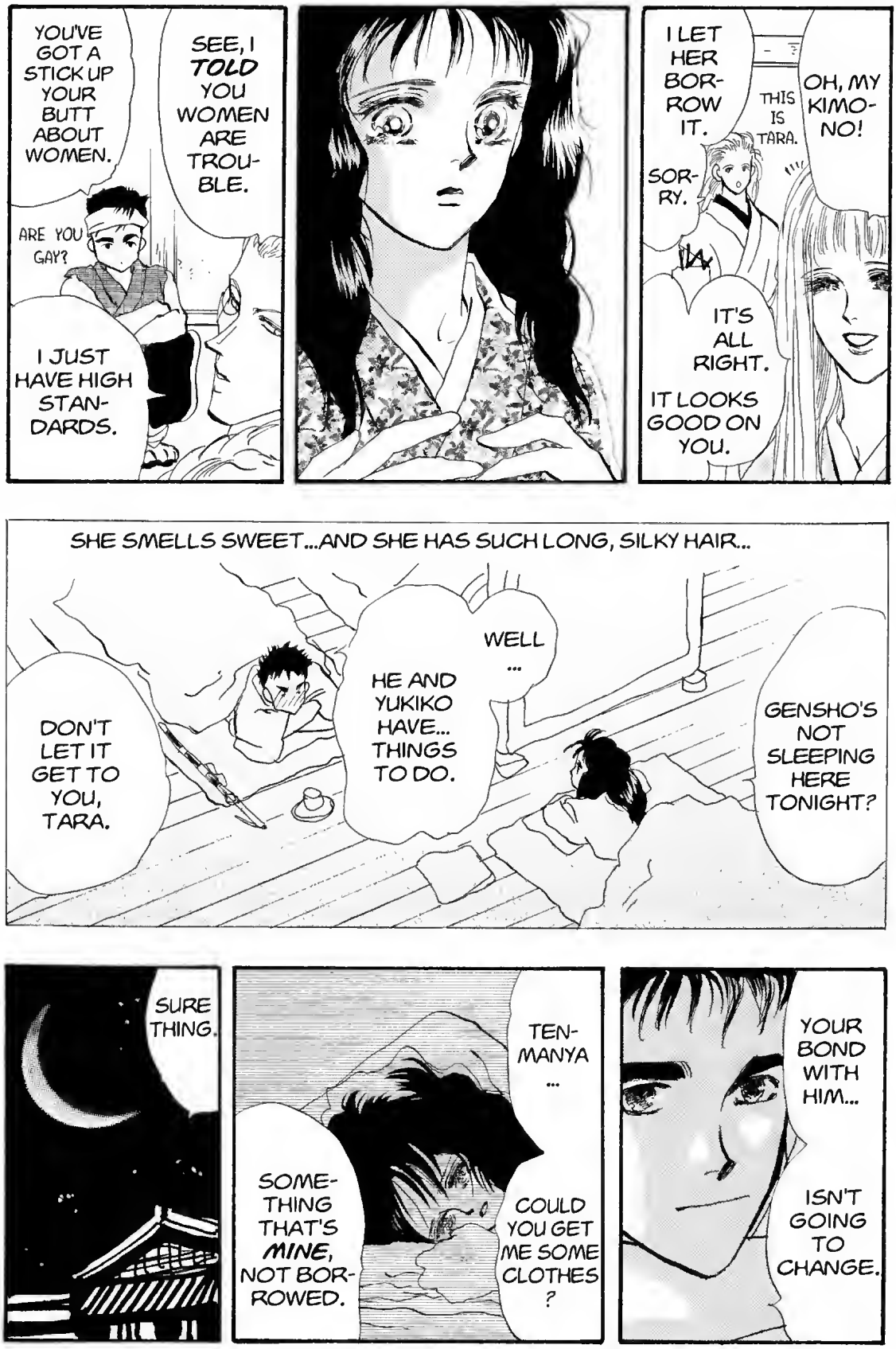
I'LL MOW YOU ALL DOWN!
VK VK VSH
YAH! YAH!
DON'T YOU DARE GET NEAR ME!

THE MOON WAS ON THE WANE.
HFF HFF HFF
HEY.
HFF HFF
THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD.
DK
HEY!
ASA-HIKO!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO MAKE?
MINCED TATAKI SASHIMI?
DK DK DK
DK
OH!
MAKE ICED ARAI!
BIG CARP!
DK

ARE YOU KEEPING BUSY?
YEAH, I AM!
ASAHIKO! WHERE'S DINNER?
TSH
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
DON'T LET IT BUG YOU.
AM I...
WEIRD?
SHH!
ZZZ
A SWORD CAN POSSESS YOU.
GEEZ.
THIS IS TAKING A TOLL ON ASAHIKO.
I CAN'T MOVE.
I'M THE ONE YOU SHOULD FEEL SORRY FOR.
CAN YOU GET ME SOME TEA?
EW!
IN THE LAP OF A DINGY MONK!
POOR GUY.

I MET RASHO WHEN I WAS A DRIFTER.
THAT WAS FOUR YEARS AGO. WE MET TENMANYA AND ASAHIKO THREE YEARS BACK!
TENMANYA AND ASAHIKO MET LIKE THAT, TOO.
ARE YOU ALL FROM DIFFER-ENT PLACES?
YUP.
THESE FOUR SWORDS WERE FORGED UP NORTH.
ASAHIKO WAS BORN IN THE NORTH, TOO, SO MAYBE THEY RESONATE.
OR MAYBE IT'S CURSED.
TARA, I WANT A PIL-LOW, TOO!
WHIP
HEY, ME TOO!
HEY, CHIEF!
YOU GOT A VISITOR!
HE'S...
LOOKIN' FOR HIS LONG-LOST SISTER.
LOOK AT HIM.
HE'S STILL A KID.


HI, GEN!
YUKIKO ...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME!
TOO MANY RISKS!
I COULDN'T SIT STILL.
THEY ALL WANT TO JOIN.
EVERYONE AROUND HERE IS TALKING ABOUT YOU.
I GUESS YOU HADN'T HEARD.
SHE AND GENSHO GREW UP TO-GETHER.
AND ...
THEY'RE PRACTI-CALLY ENGAGED.


YOU'VE GOT A STICK UP YOUR BUTT ABOUT WOMEN.
SEE, I TOLD YOU WOMEN ARE TROU-BLE.
ARE YOU GAY?
I JUST HAVE HIGH STAN-DARDS.
I LET HER BOR-ROW IT.
THIS IS TARA.
OH, MY KIMO-NO!
SOR-RY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
SHE SMELLS SWEET...AND SHE HAS SUCH LONG, SILKY HAIR...
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, TARA.
HE AND YUKIKO HAVE... THINGS TO DO.
WELL ...
GENSHO'S NOT SLEEPING HERE TONIGHT?
SURE THING.
SOME-THING THAT'S MINE, NOT BOR-ROWED.
TEN-MANYA ...
COULD YOU GET ME SOME CLOTHES ?
YOUR BOND WITH HIM...
ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE.

UM.
THANK YOU FOR THE CLOTHES.
OOH, A NEW OUTFIT!
LOOKS GOOD!
PRACTICAL...
NO, REALLY.
THANKS AGAIN.
OH, YOU CAN KEEP WEARING THEM.
OH, GEN...
YOU TOLD ME NOT TO COME, BUT YOU HAVE A GIRL HERE.
I'M GLAD I SHOWED UP AFTER ALL.
WHAT?
HM?
WHAT?
HM?
HM?

ER, I MEAN ...
I TRUST YOU, GEN.
DON'T WORRY.
HEE HEE
ONE ...
OF THE BOYS ...
HOW NICE.
TARA'S SPECIAL.
SHE'S NOT JUST ANY GIRL...SHE'S ONE OF US.
DO YOU REMEMBER...
...ALL THE DREAMS WE TALKED ABOUT?
I DO.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS COUNTRY!
ONE DAY, YUKIKO, I'M GONNA CHANGE IT.
I'LL BUILD A NEW COUNTRY.
WE'LL OVERTHROW THE LION KING!

I'LL BE FINE.
I'M SURE THINGS WILL WORK OUT.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
MY DREAMS ARE THE SAME AS YOURS.
BUT I CAN'T FIGHT.
PLEASE DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED.
OR MAIMED, EITHER.
FSH
HERE!
THIS IS OUR NEXT PLAN OF ATTACK.
WE'RE GOING TO SKIP AROUND AND RAID THE HORSE VILLAGE IN THE SOUTH.
TAKE THE ENEMY BY SURPRISE.

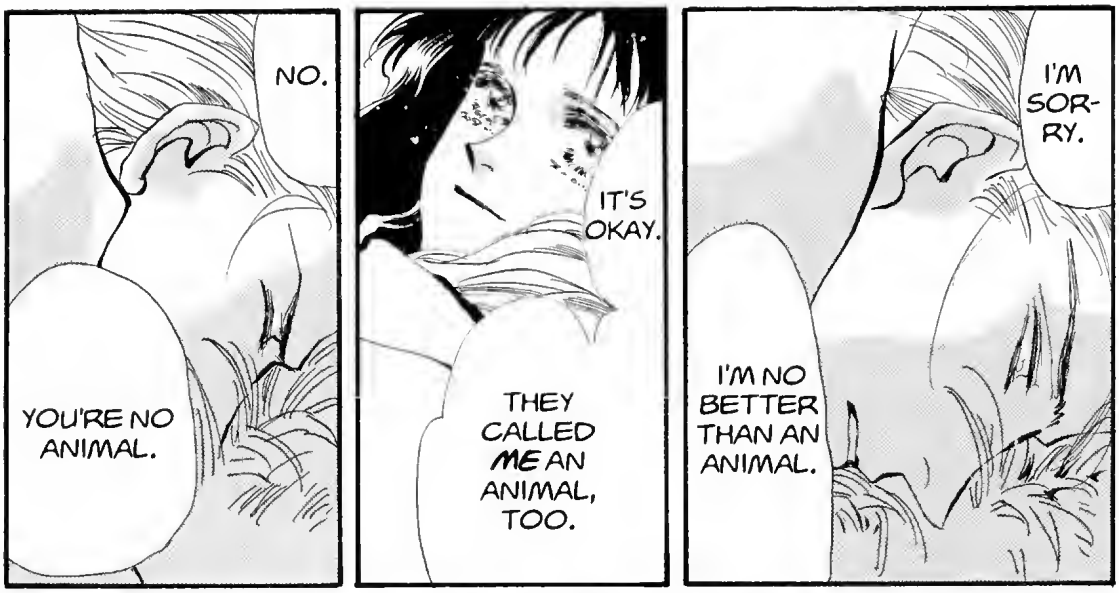
SHE'S NOT INVOLVED.
SHE'S NOT GOING INTO BATTLE WITH US.
ARTISANS LIVE HERE...
GENSHO.
WHERE'S YUKIKO?
RAAAAAAAAAAH
...I CAN HAVE GENSHO.
THEN FOR NOW...
DMM...
I DON'T ...
KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT POLITICS ...
BUT...
...ONLY IN BATTLE.
I CAN BE ONE WITH HIM...

...I CAN FIGHT FOR YOU, GENSHO.
I'LL KILL PEOPLE FOR YOU...
...SO YOU WON'T GET TIRED.
SO YOU WON'T GET HURT.
TARA?
GEN-SHO!
SOME-THING'S WRONG!
THE OFFICIALS ARE GONE...
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN THE VILLAGERS.
THEY MUST BE LOCKED UP SOME-WHERE. LOOK AROUND!
KEEP LOOK-ING!
EEP ...

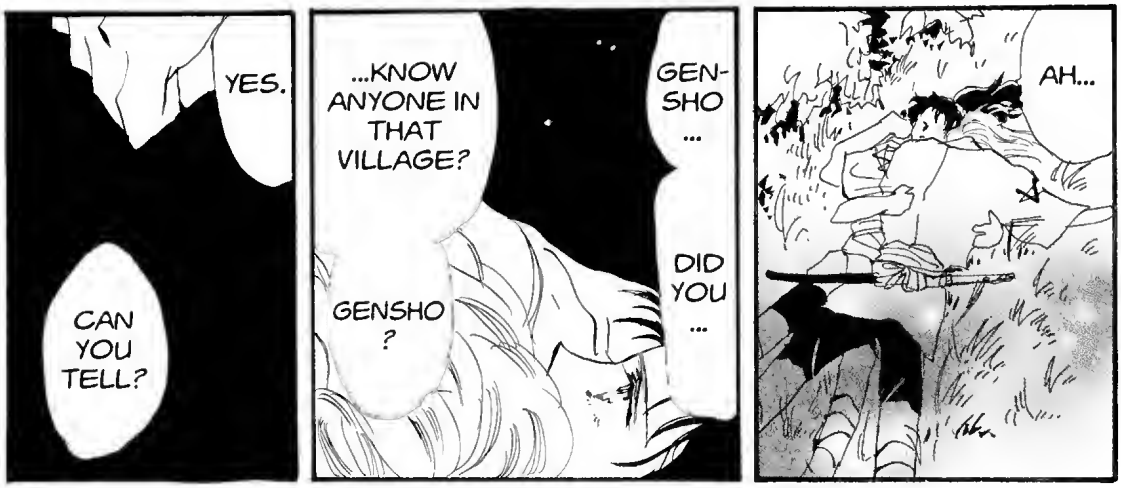
WAAH
GENSHO! GENSHO!
THE VILLA-GERS!
OH, MY GOD!
MY GOD...
THEY WERE ALL EXECUTED ?
AREN'T THERE ANY SURVIVORS?
IT'S A MASSA-CRE!
WAAH

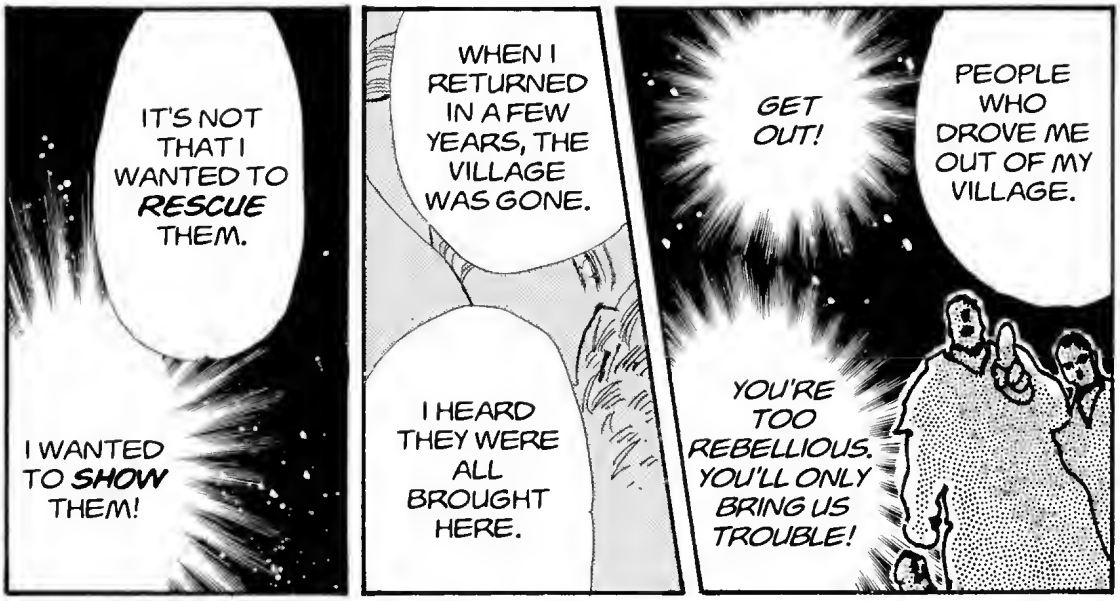
GEN-SHO!
WAAH
DAMN!
WE CAME TO SAVE YOU!
ISN'T ANYONE ALIVE?
THEY WERE KILLED TO MAKE A POINT.
REST IN PEACE.
THIS IS HOW THE LION KING WORKS.
HE GOT US, GEN-SHO.
I KILLED THEM!
I DID IT!
GENSHO!
GENSHO!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!
YES, IT IS!
WE KNEW...
THEY WERE CAPABLE OF THIS.
WE KEPT WINNING, SO WE GOT COCKY.

GEN...
KRAK
GENSHO!
GEN-
SHO?


NO.
YOU'RE NO ANIMAL.
IT'S OKAY.
THEY CALLED ME AN ANIMAL, TOO.
I'M SOR-RY.
I'M NO BETTER THAN AN ANIMAL.

DON'T LISTEN TO THOSE PEOPLE.
DON'T EVER THINK OF YOURSELF THAT WAY.

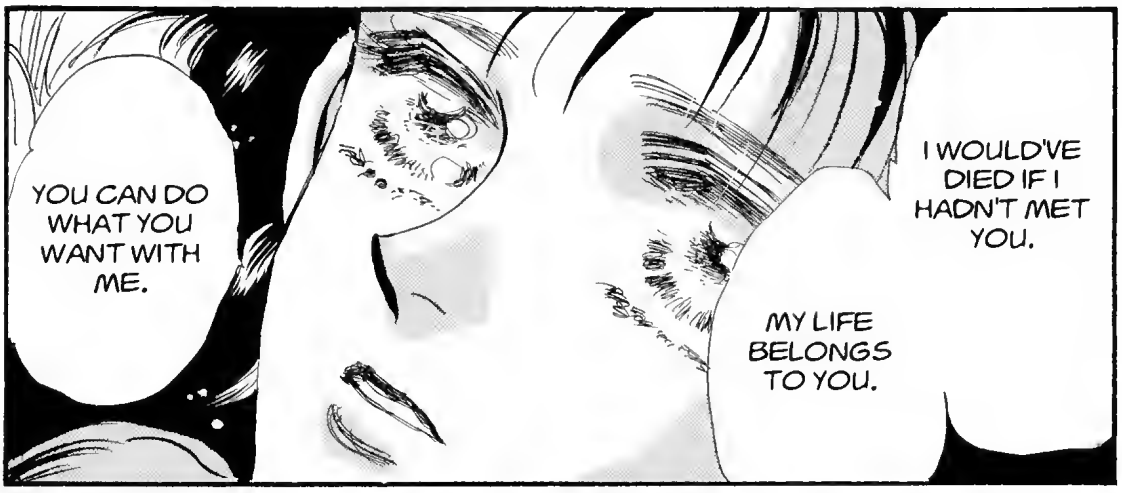

YES.
CAN YOU TELL?
...KNOW ANYONE IN THAT VILLAGE?
GENSHO?
GEN-SHO...
DID YOU...
AH...


PEOPLE WHO DROVE ME OUT OF MY VILLAGE.
GET OUT!
YOU'RE TOO REBELLIOUS. YOU'LL ONLY BRING US TROUBLE!
WHEN I RETURNED IN A FEW YEARS, THE VILLAGE WAS GONE.
I HEARD THEY WERE ALL BROUGHT HERE.
IT'S NOT THAT I WANTED TO *RESCUE* THEM.
I WANTED TO *SHOW* THEM!

SEE, YOU WERE WRONG!
LOOK HOW WELL I'VE DONE FOR MYSELF!

YOU *ARE* AMAZ-ING.
YOU'RE ALWAYS CHARGING FORWARD.
ALWAYS.
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL EVER STOP?

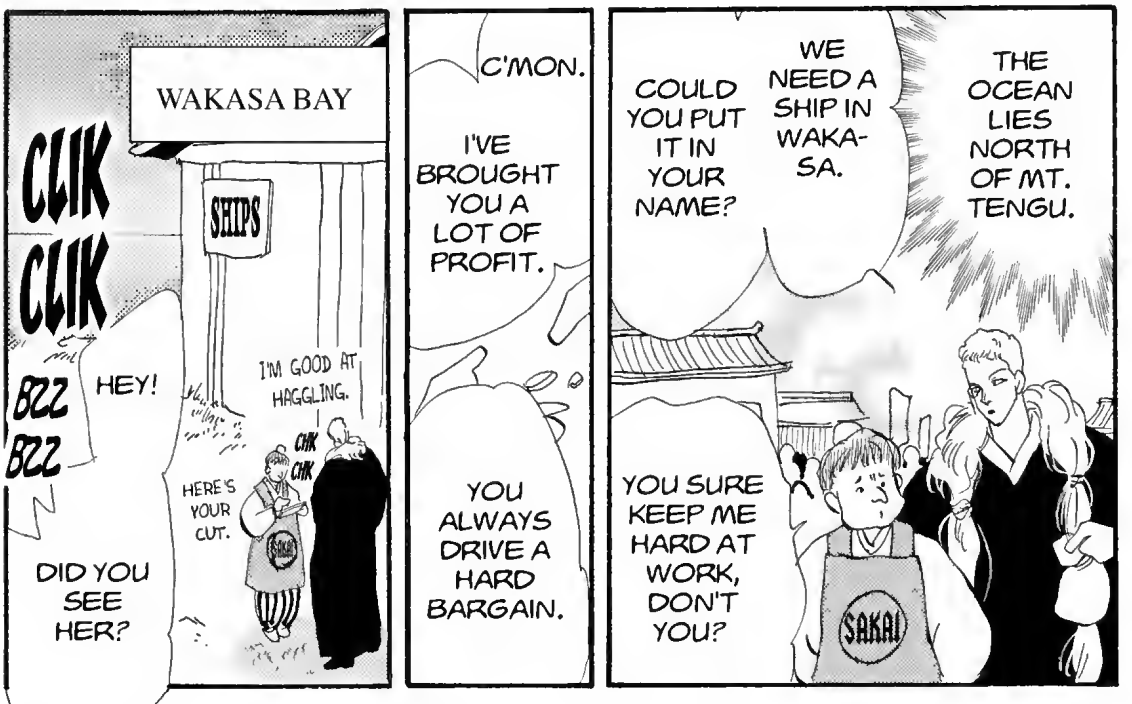
HEH.
YOU DIDN'T SEE ME AS A GIRL BEFORE?
ODD.
YOU LOOK LIKE A GIRL TODAY.
SORRY.
NOPE.
THEN...
...WE CAN STAY TOGETHER, ALWAYS.
NO, NEVER.
NOT WHILE I'M ALIVE.
WE WON'T LOSE.

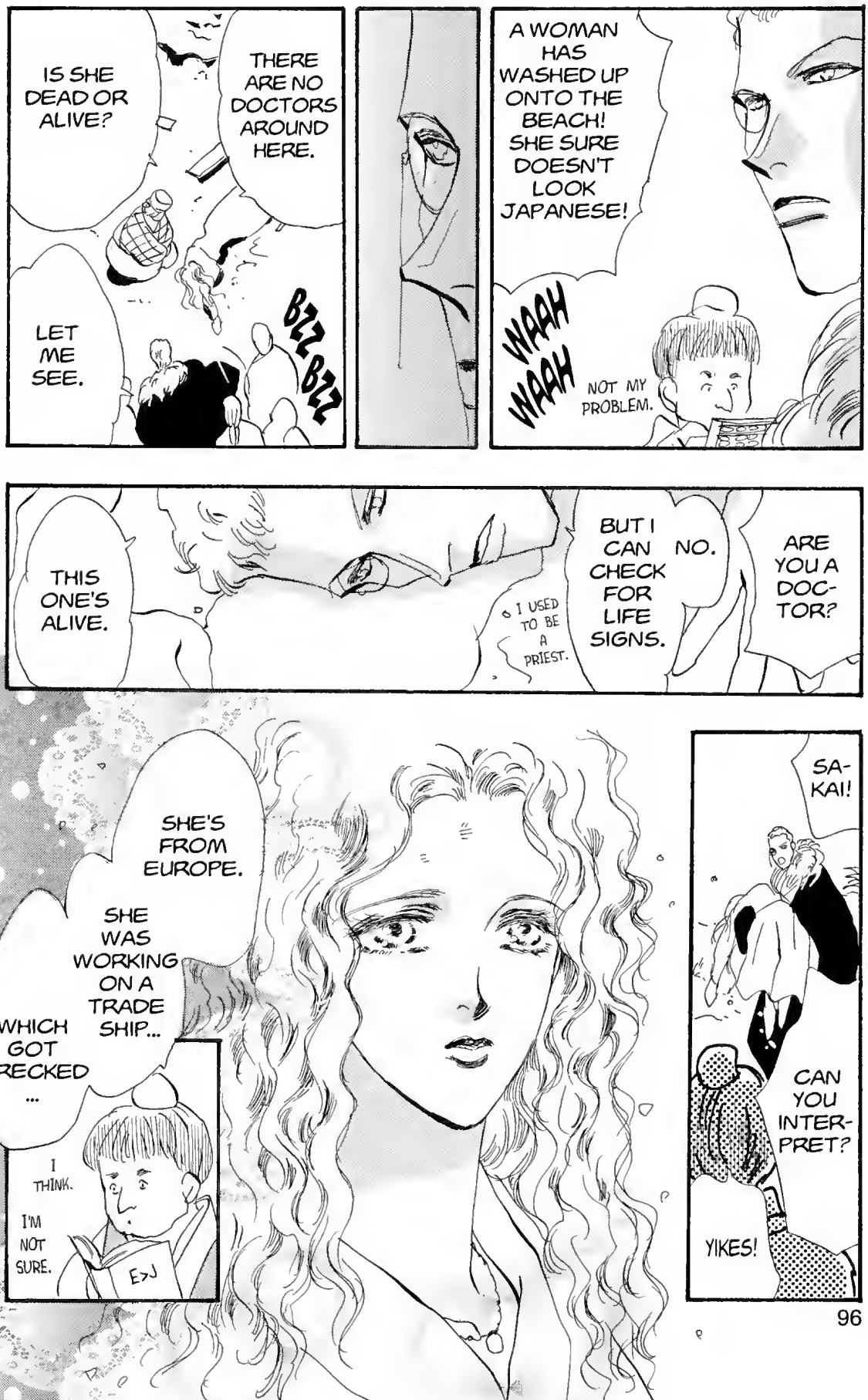

YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH ME.
I WOULD'VE DIED IF I HADN'T MET YOU.
MY LIFE BELONGS TO YOU.

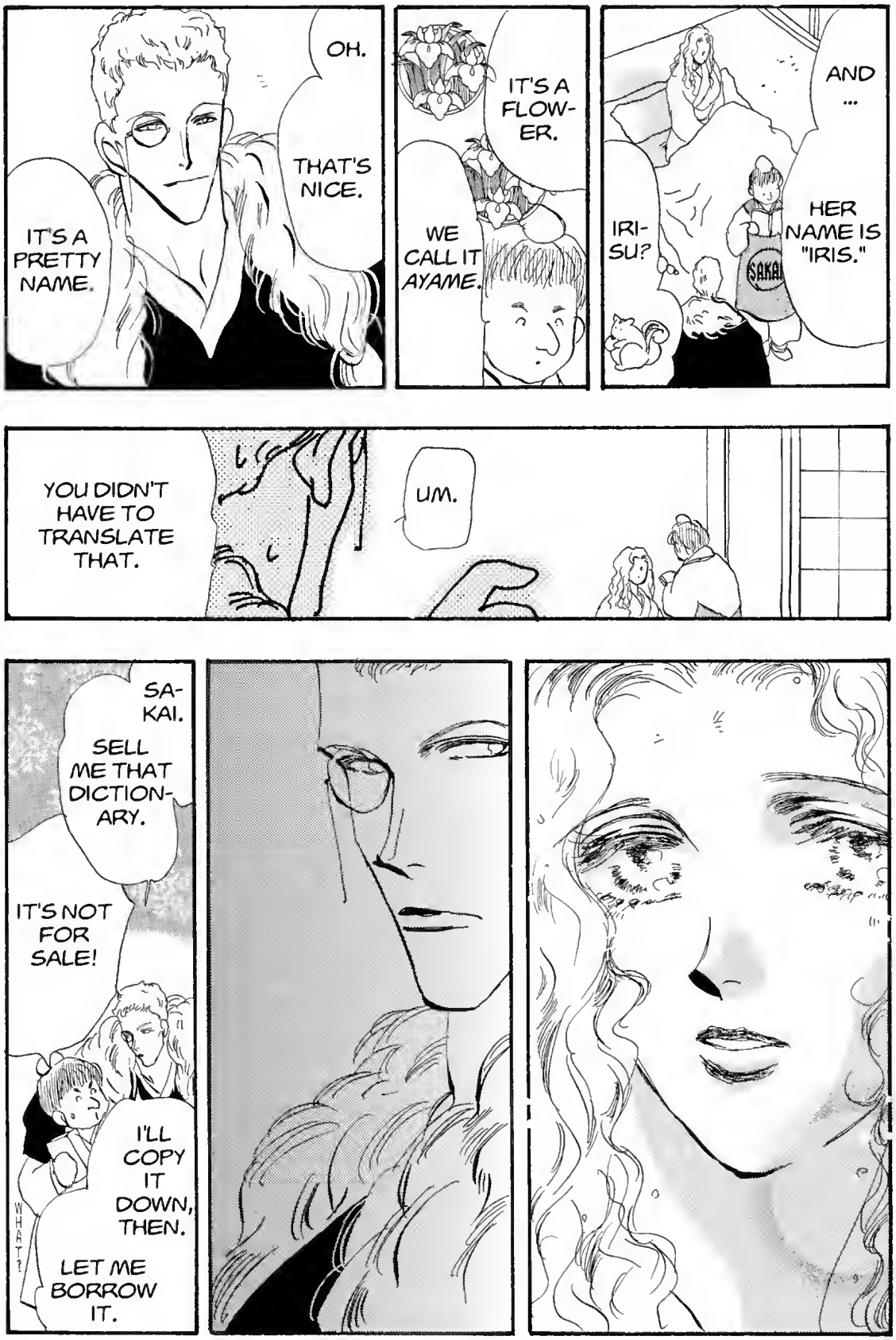
I KNOW I DON'T SOUND TOO CONVINCING IN THIS POSITION...
BUT I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
YOUR LIFE BELONGS TO *YOURSELF.*

COME ON, GENSHO! GO FOR IT! THIS IS TORTURE!
DON'T PULL BACK AT THE LAST MINUTE!
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.
AND I'M PATHETIC FOR PEEPING!
THIS IS THE WORST DAY EVER!
PATHE-TIC!
DOESN'T HE KNOW HOW SHE FEELS?
ASA.
THERE ARE NO YOUNG GIRLS HERE.
YOUR SISTER WASN'T AMONG THEM.

IT WAS A TOTAL LOSS.




IS SHE DEAD OR ALIVE?
THERE ARE NO DOCTORS AROUND HERE.
LET ME SEE.
BZZ BZZ
A WOMAN HAS WASHED UP ONTO THE BEACH! SHE SURE DOESN'T LOOK JAPANESE!
WAAH WAAH
NOT MY PROBLEM.
THIS ONE'S ALIVE.
I USED TO BE A PRIEST.
BUT I CAN CHECK FOR LIFE SIGNS.
NO.
ARE YOU A DOC-TOR?
SHE'S FROM EUROPE.
SHE WAS WORKING ON A TRADE SHIP...
WHICH GOT WRECKED ...
I THINK. I'M NOT SURE.
E>J
SA-KAI!
CAN YOU INTER-PRET?
YIKES!


OH.
THAT'S NICE.
IT'S A PRETTY NAME.
IT'S A FLOW-ER.
WE CALL IT AYAME.
AND ...
HER NAME IS "IRIS."
IRI-SU?
SAKAI
UM.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TRANSLATE THAT.
SA-KAI.
SELL ME THAT DICTION-ARY.
IT'S NOT FOR SALE!
I'LL COPY IT DOWN, THEN.
LET ME BORROW IT.
WHAT?

GO AWAY.
TENMAN-YA'S WITH A GIRL!
A FOREIGN GIRL!

HERE, I'LL DO YOUR WASH.
YOU'VE GOT A SIS-TER?
GET AWAY FROM ME!

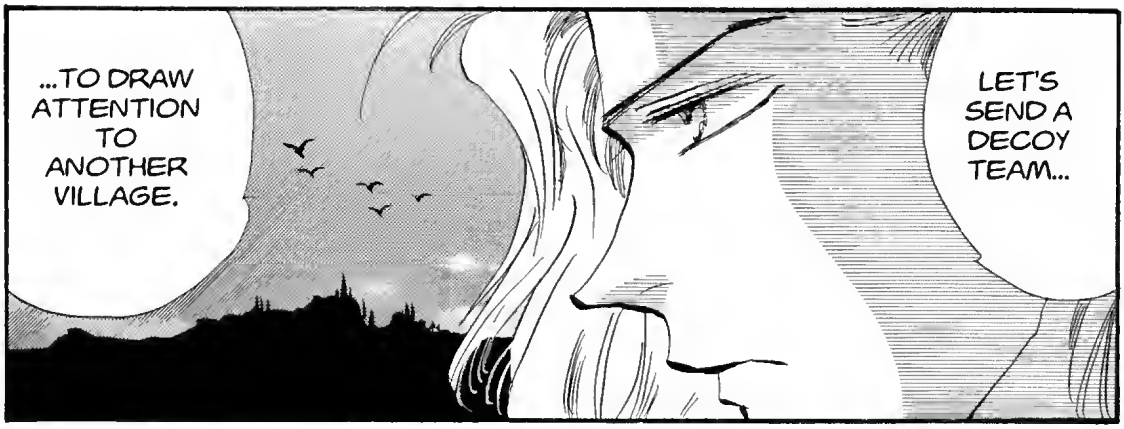
DON'T RUSH.
WHAT IF THEY END UP KILLING EVERYONE AGAIN?

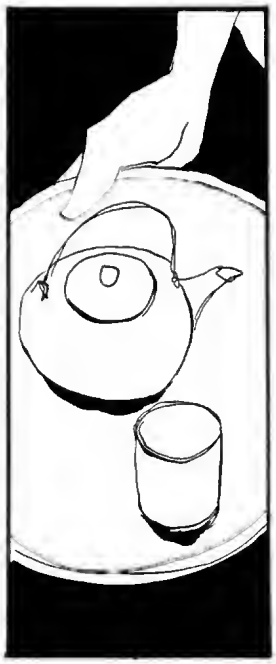
LET'S RAID SNAKE VILLAGE!
THEY KEEP COM-FORT WOMEN!

WHEN DO WE RIDE NEXT?
DM
GEN-SHO!
YOU'RE NOT WIMPING OUT, ARE YOU?
DM
DM

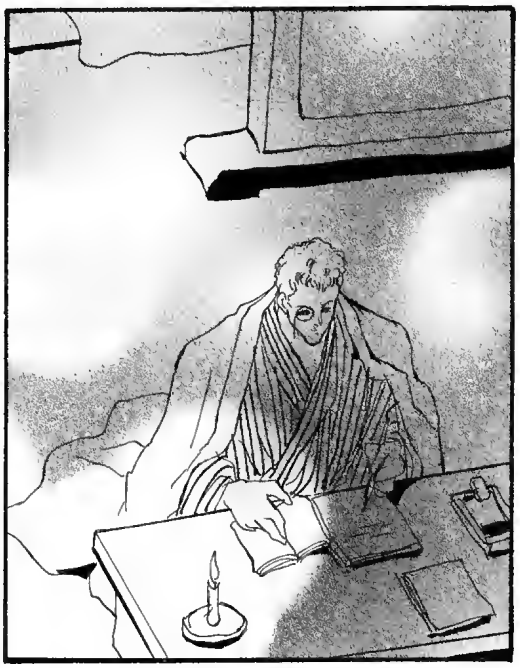
SHE HAS THE SAME GOOD-LUCK CHARM AS I DO.
I HOPE SHE'S ALIVE.

MY SISTER COULD BE THERE!
I WANT TO RESCUE HER AS SOON AS I CAN!

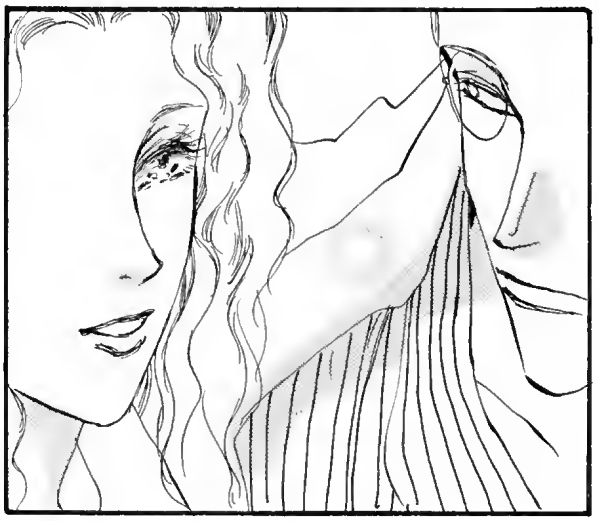

...TO DRAW ATTENTION TO ANOTHER VILLAGE.
LET'S SEND A DECOY TEAM...

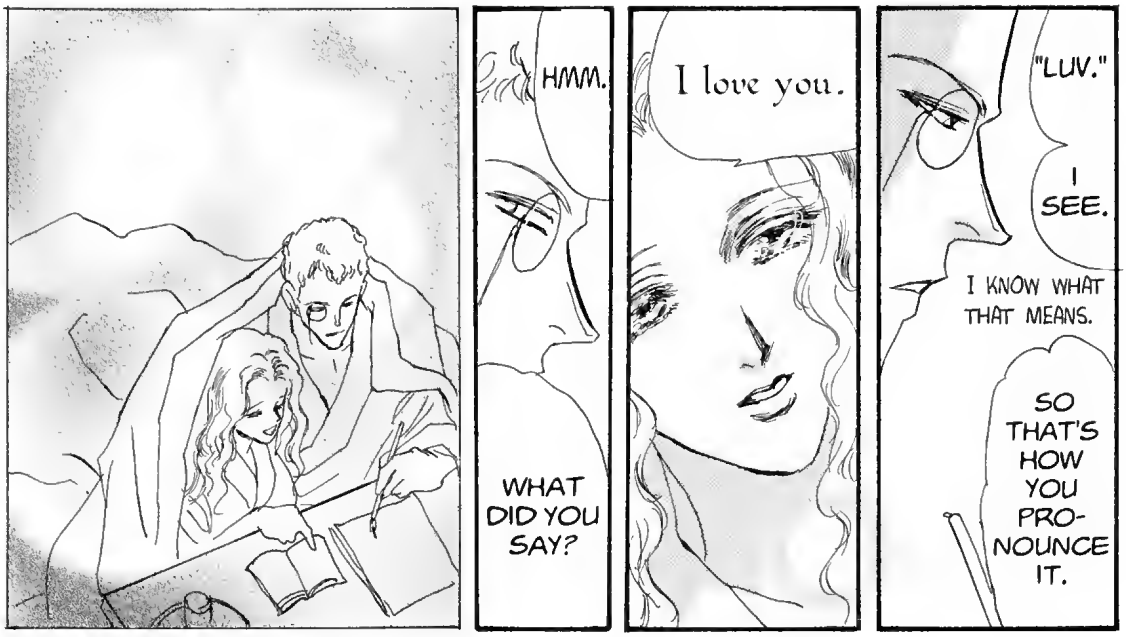


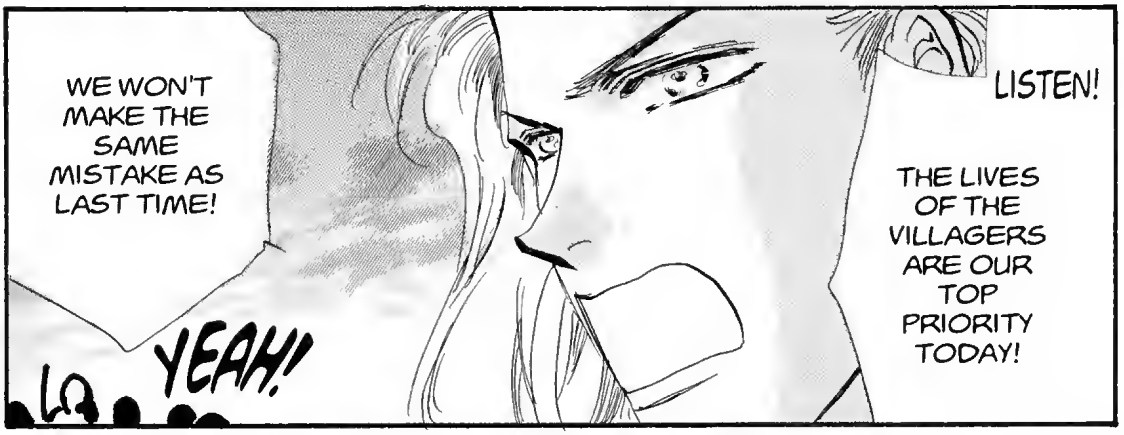
OH.
NA-BEZO?
IS IT TOO BRIGHT TO SLEEP?
SOR-RY.

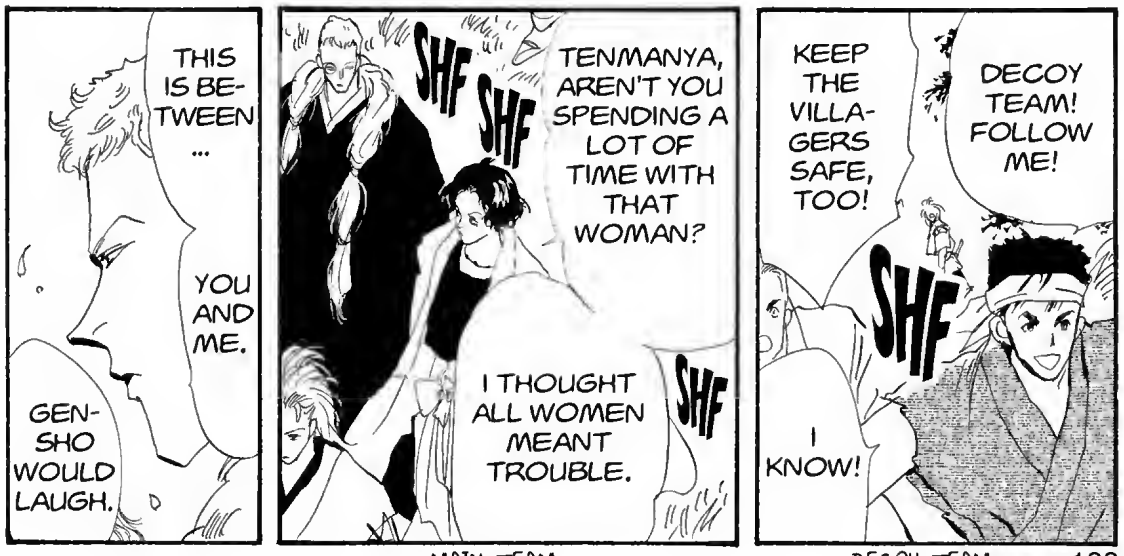


Love.





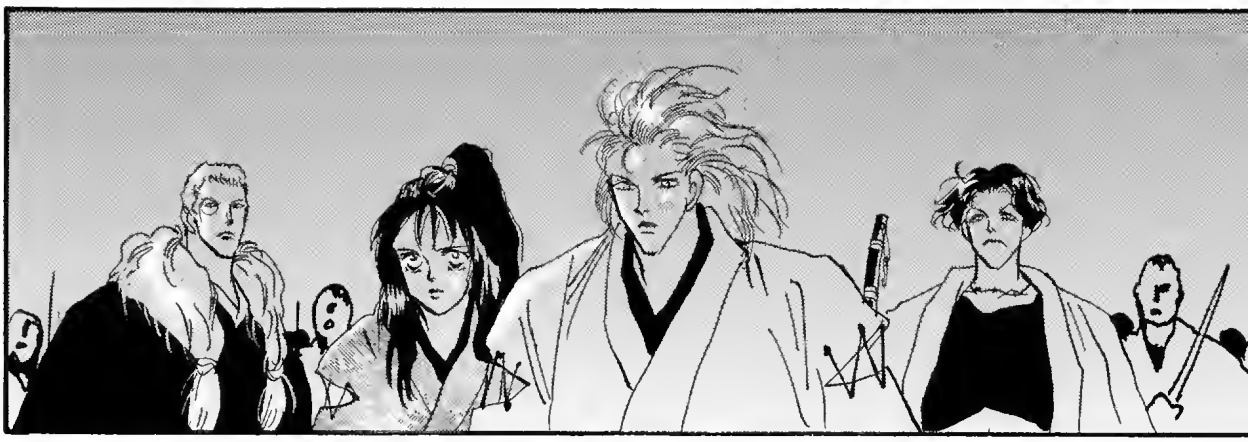




MAIN TEAM DECOY TEAM

SHE'S ...
...THE FIRST WOMAN I'VE EVER BEEN WITH. SERIOUSLY.
OKAY.
YEAH!
HERE GOES.
WE'RE ONLY THE DECOYS, SO DON'T TAKE THINGS TOO FAR.
SHEEP VILLAGE
RA-SHO?
STRANGE. NOBODY'S HERE.
NO GUARDS?
THE PLACE IS EMPTY.
BUT WHEN WE SCOUTED EARLIER IN THE DAY...
NOT ONE?

THEY GOT US!



VS
SNAKE VILLAGE

RAAH
KNG
THESE AREN'T JUST GUARDS.
THEY'RE MILI-TARY!
RAAH
HURRY!
RAAH
RAAH
ARGH!
THEY KNEW, GEN-SHO!
TO SNAKE VIL-LAGE!
GEN-SHO!
THEY WERE WAITING FOR US!
RAARG
TARA!
STAY CLOSE TO ME!
DID SOME-ONE RAT ON US?

RAAA

GO! KEEP FIGHT-ING!
DON'T YIELD!
EEK!
WAAH!
HE'S A KILLING MACHINE!
I'LL KILL THEM ALL!
KILL THEM!
KILL THEM!
...THIRSTS FOR MORE BLOOD!
THE GENBU SWORD...
BM P
YOU! GO ON!
YOU ASKED FOR IT!
SSSH

ASA
...

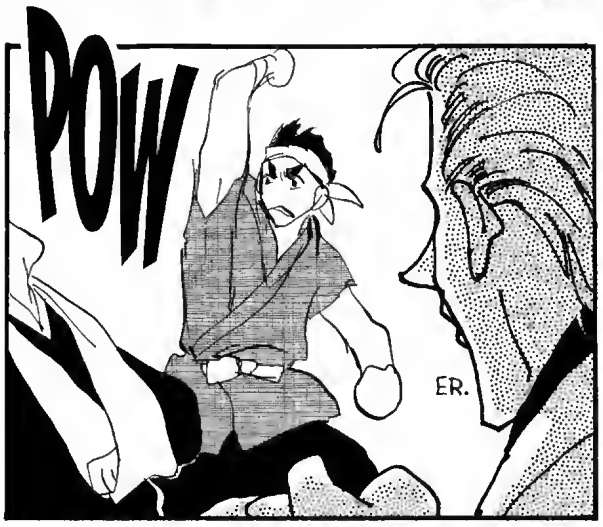
YU...?
YU...
A...
ASAHIKO!
ASAHIKO!
COME WITH ME!

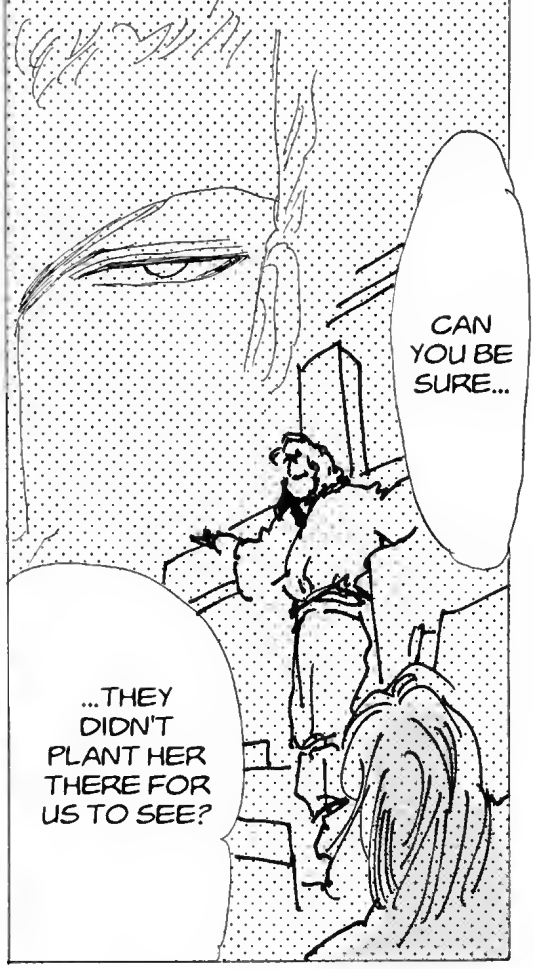
ZSH!
ASA-HIKO!
HAAA
COME ON!
GET UP!
GO ON AHEAD! SAVE YOUR-SELVES!
GEN-SHO!
LEAVE US!
THK
THK
GEN-SHO!
I'LL SAVE THEM!
TARA, DON'T!
TEN-MANYA!

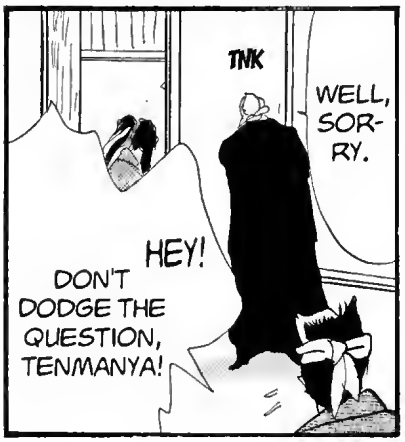
VWW
FFT
HFF
HFF
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WE LOST MANY MEN.
THEY DIDN'T PURSUE US.
RAAH
VW
WE MADE IT!
RA-SHO!
RAAH RAAH
GET OUT OF THERE!
HOW DID THIS HAP-PEN?

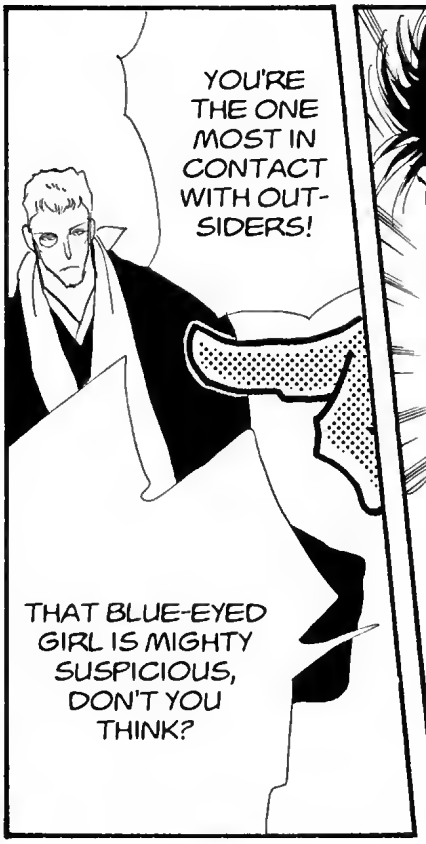
WE DIDN'T TELL ANYONE THE DETAILS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.
IT HAS TO BE ONE OF US...
SOMEONE LEAKED INFOR-MATION!
WHO?
THEY KNEW WHAT OUR PLANS WERE!
THEY TRICKED HIM INTO KILLING HER!
THEY EVEN KNEW ABOUT ASAHIKO'S SISTER!
...DISCUSS ANY OF OUR PLANS WITH YUKIKO?
DID YOU...
GEN-SHO.
HEY ...
WHAT ABOUT TARA?
WE SHOULD BE SKEPTICAL OF THE NEW ARRIVALS.
WAIT A MINUTE, TEN-MANYA!
WHAT?

WHY, YOU ...


POW
ER.

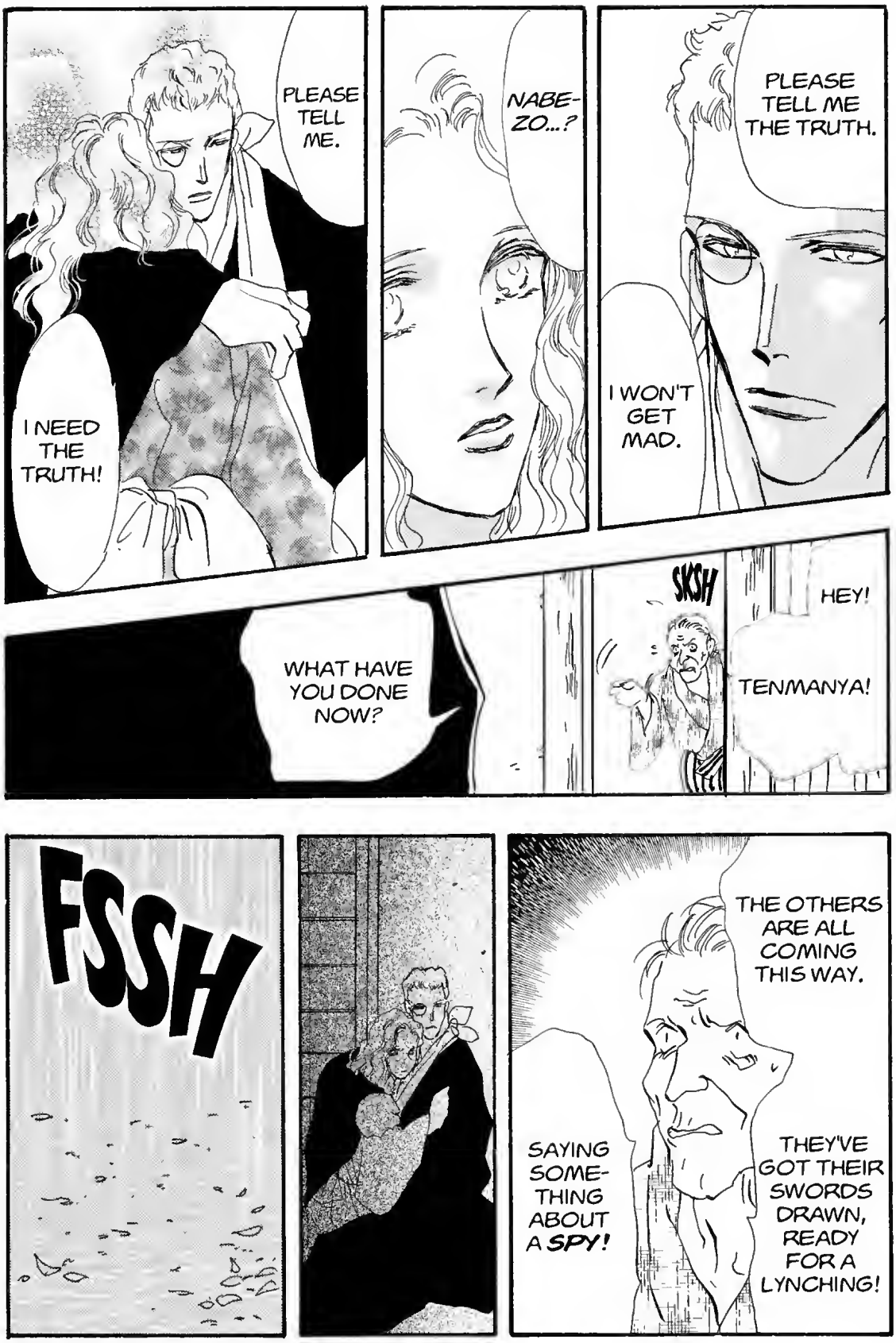

CAN YOU BE SURE...
...THEY DIDN'T PLANT HER THERE FOR US TO SEE?

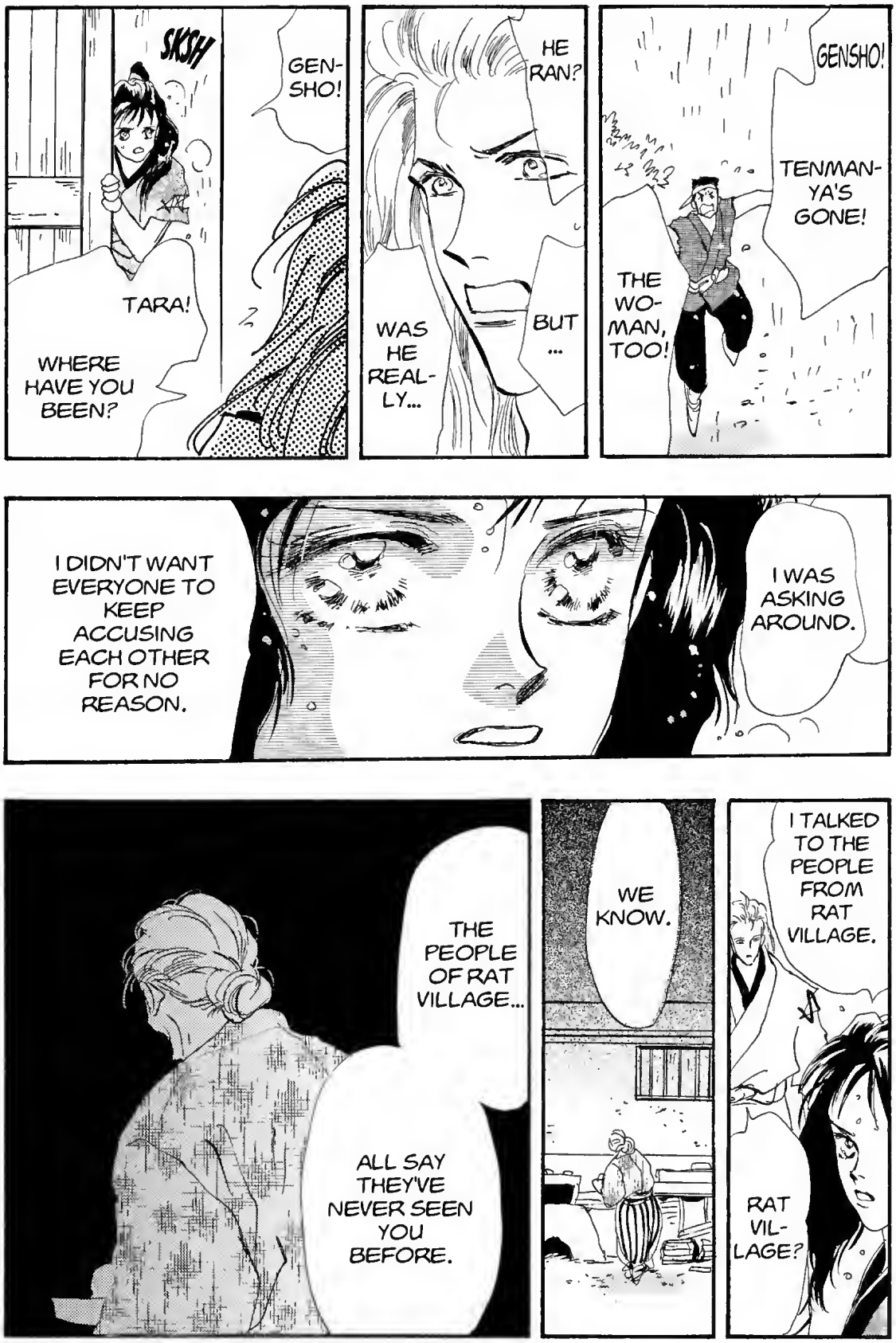

TNK
WELL, SORRY.
HEY!
DON'T DODGE THE QUESTION, TENMANYA!


YOU'RE THE ONE MOST IN CONTACT WITH OUTSIDERS!
THAT BLUE-EYED GIRL IS MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?

HOW DARE YOU SUSPECT TARA?
AND WHAT ABOUT *YOU*, TENMANYA?

HEY!
TARA!
KLAK
HANG ON!
HMPH.
DOES HE HAVE SOMETHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
I DON'T REALLY THINK YOU'RE THE TRAITOR.
TARA.
SOR-RY.
IRIS.
ARE YOU ONLY PRETENDING THAT YOU CAN'T UNDER-STAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
TELL ME.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND JAPANESE?

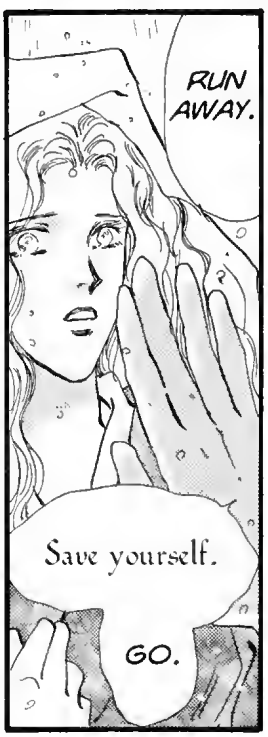

PLEASE TELL ME.
I NEED THE TRUTH!
NABE-ZO...?
PLEASE TELL ME THE TRUTH.
I WON'T GET MAD.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE NOW?
SKSH
HEY!
TENMANYA!
FSSH
THE OTHERS ARE ALL COMING THIS WAY.
SAYING SOME-THING ABOUT A SPY!
THEY'VE GOT THEIR SWORDS DRAWN, READY FOR A LYNCHING!


SKSH
GEN-SHO!
TARA!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
HE RAN?
BUT ...
WAS HE REAL-LY...
GENSHO!
TENMAN-YA'S GONE!
THE WO-MAN, TOO!
I DIDN'T WANT EVERYONE TO KEEP ACCUSING EACH OTHER FOR NO REASON.
I WAS ASKING AROUND.
THE PEOPLE OF RAT VILLAGE...
ALL SAY THEY'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE.
WE KNOW.
I TALKED TO THE PEOPLE FROM RAT VILLAGE.
RAT VIL-LAGE?

HE LOVES IT WHEN PEOPLE PUT UP A RESISTANCE.
THE LION KING IS TOYING WITH YOU.
THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN ENTER-TAINMENT FOR HIM.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY...
...YOU'RE NOT DEAD YET?
YOU ...
...YOU PEOPLE WON'T LAST ONE SECOND!
IF HE EVER GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS...
HEH.
WHAT DO YOU THINK...
TENMANYA'S DOING RIGHT NOW?
ZK

TENMANYA!
FSSSSSSSH

Sorry.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
AND...

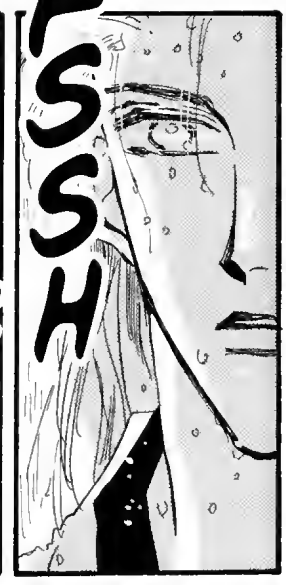

RUN AWAY.
Save yourself.
GO.

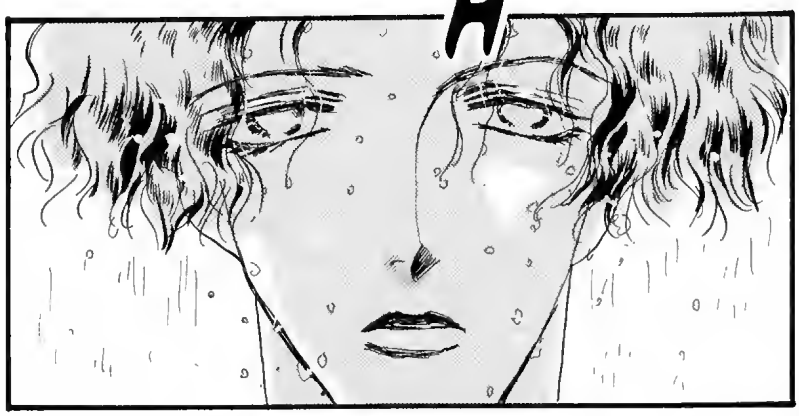
I GET IT.
IT WAS THAT CRONE.

PSH
TEN-
MAN-
YA!
PSH
TEN-
MANYA!
SHF
I
love
you.
HEY!
IT'S
HER!
GOOD!
SHE'S
ALIVE!
WHERE'S
TENMANYA?

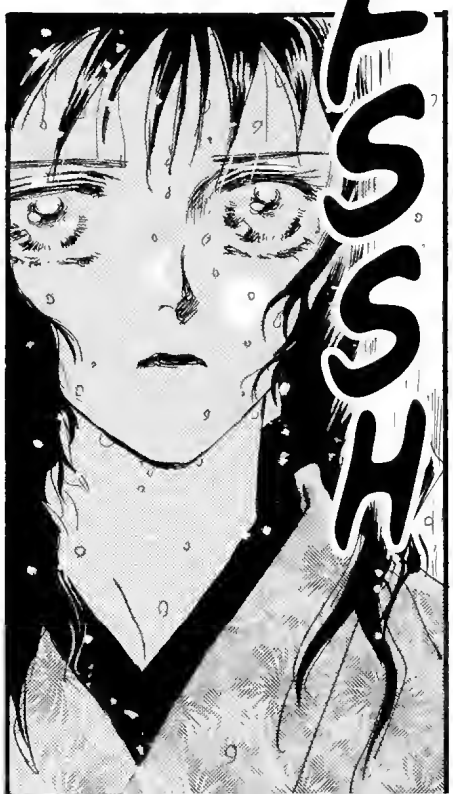
PSH

FSSH

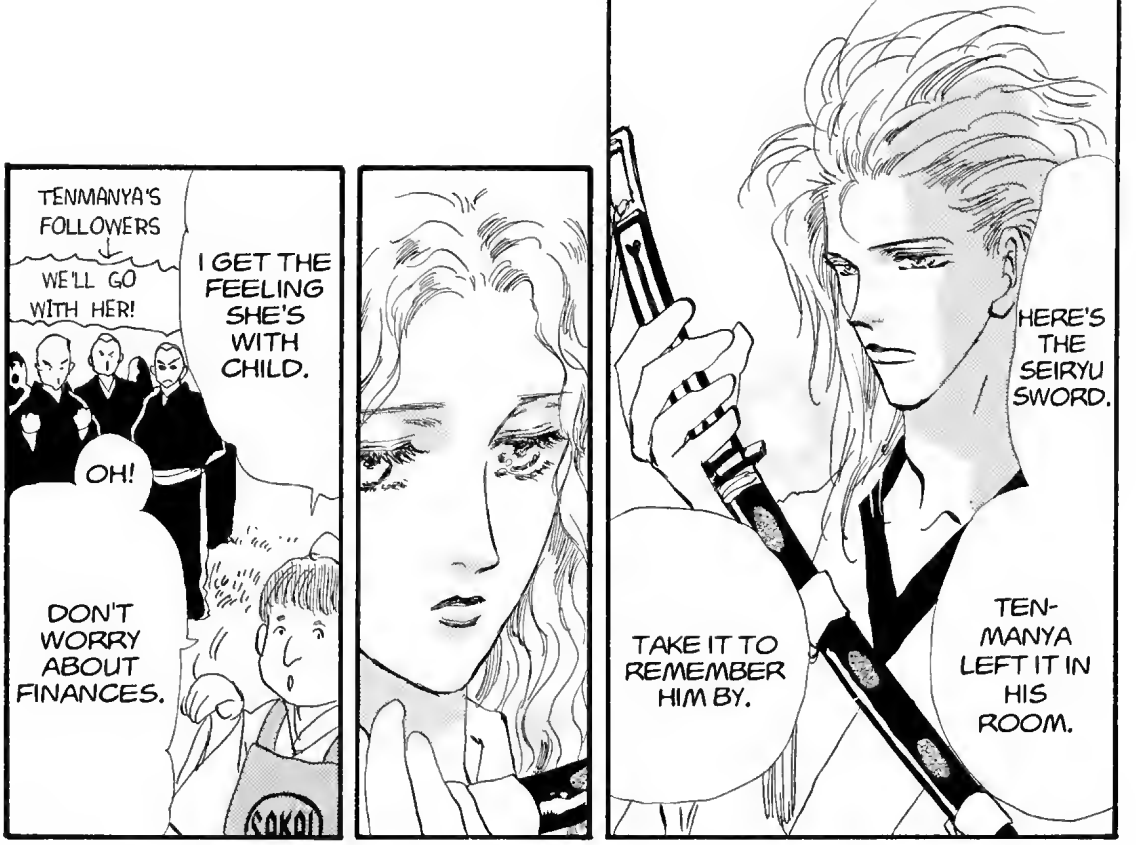

FSSH

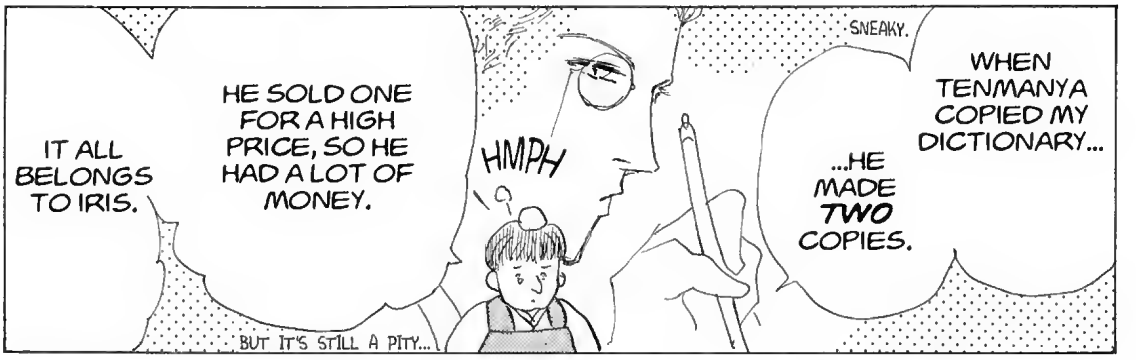


I'LL TAKE IT UPON MY-SELF ...
TO TAKE HER TO A PLACE WHERE SHE CAN SETTLE DOWN.
I THINK THE EAST WOULD BE GOOD.
SAKA

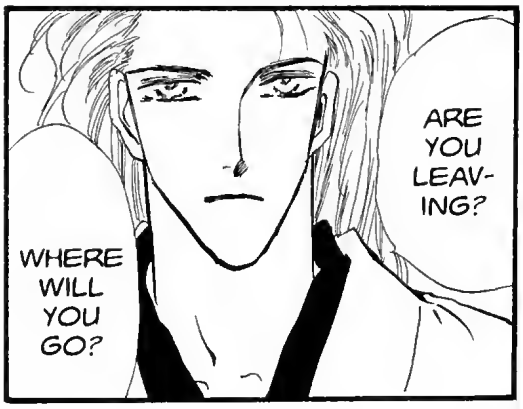

FSSH

YOU'RE A CURSED WERE-WOLF!

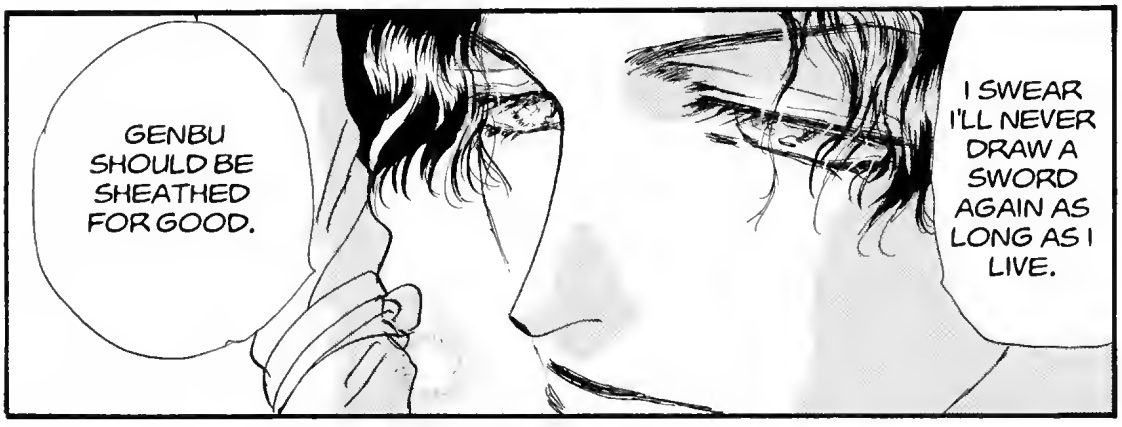

TENMANYA'S FOLLOWERS
WE'LL GO WITH HER!
I GET THE FEELING SHE'S WITH CHILD.
OH!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT FINANCES.
SOKO
HERE'S THE SEIRYU SWORD.
TAKE IT TO REMEMBER HIM BY.
TEN-MANYA LEFT IT IN HIS ROOM.

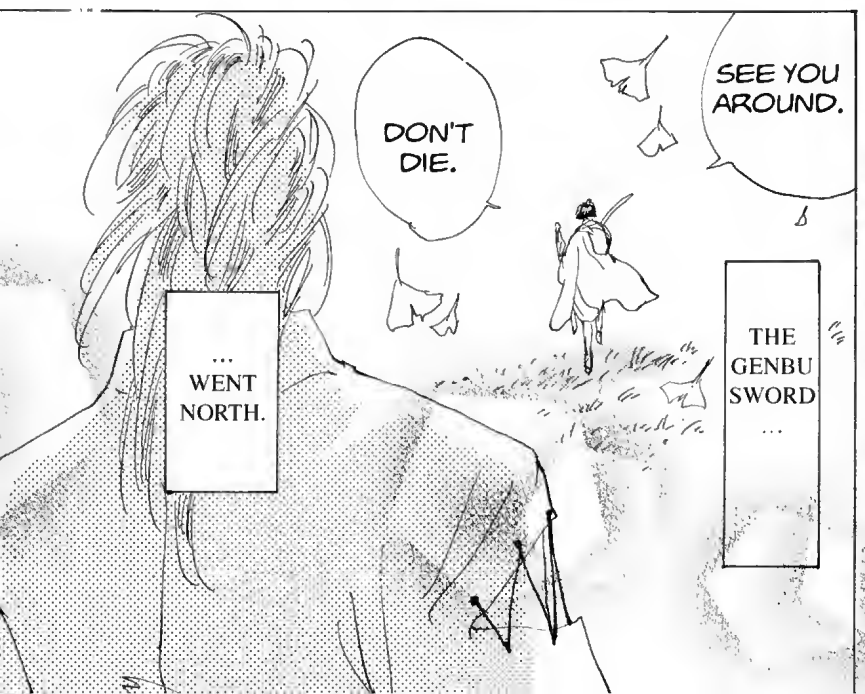

IT ALL BELONGS TO IRIS.
HE SOLD ONE FOR A HIGH PRICE, SO HE HAD A LOT OF MONEY.
BUT IT'S STILL A PITY...
HMPH
SNEAKY.
...HE MADE TWO COPIES.
WHEN TENMANYA COPIED MY DICTIONARY...

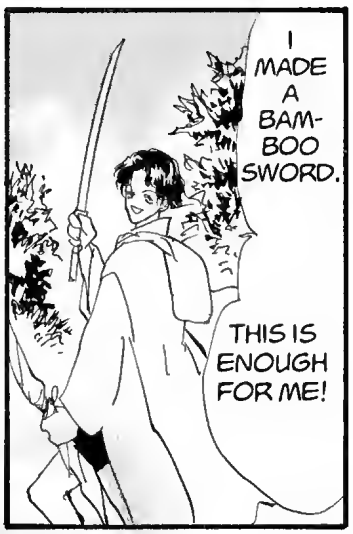
ASAHIKO HAS BEEN HOLED UP IN HIS ROOM!
IS HE ALL RIGHT?
THE SEIRYU SWORD ...
WENT EAST.
I'M NOT SUR-PRISED.

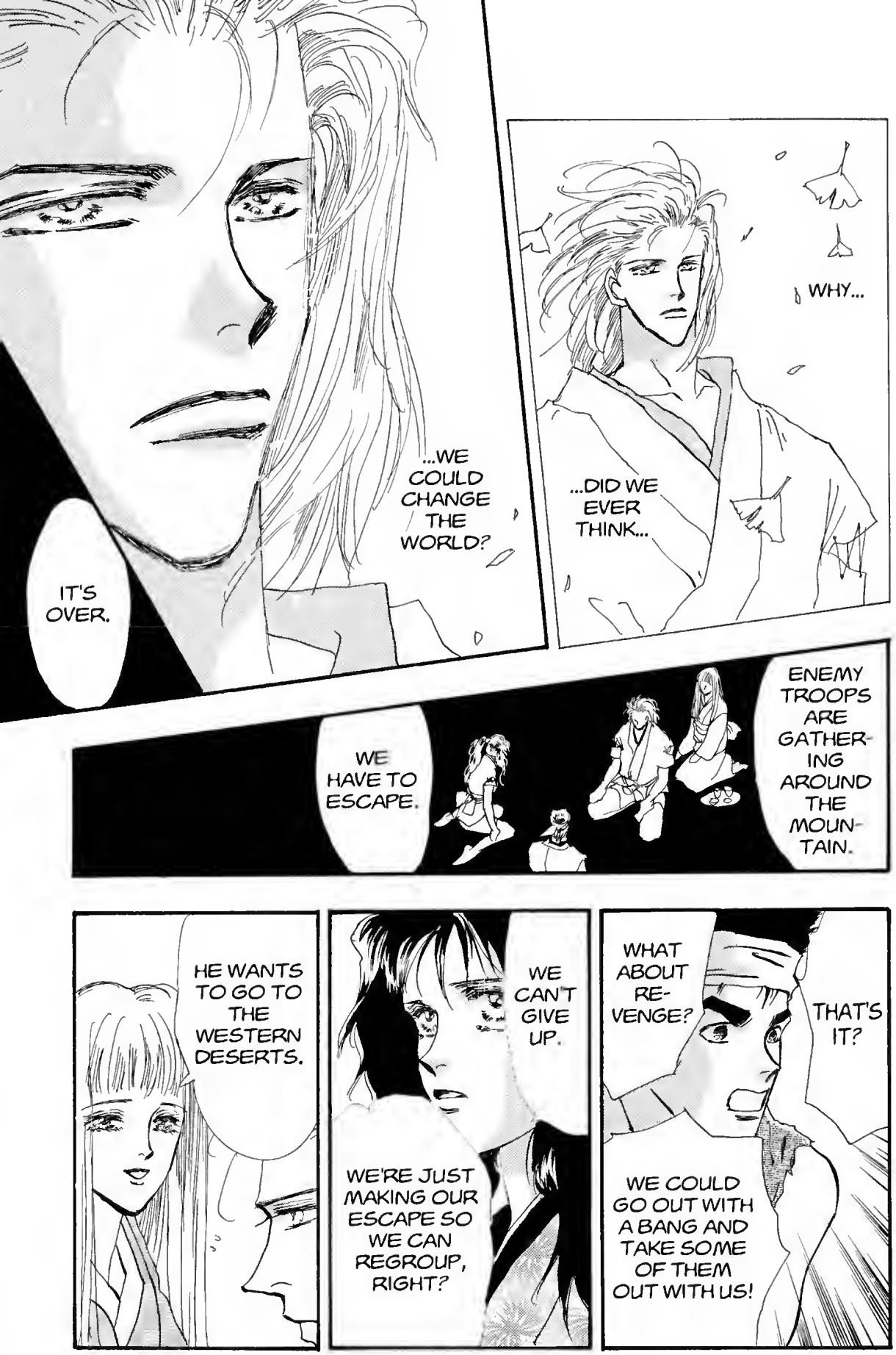

ARE YOU LEAV-ING?
WHERE WILL YOU GO?

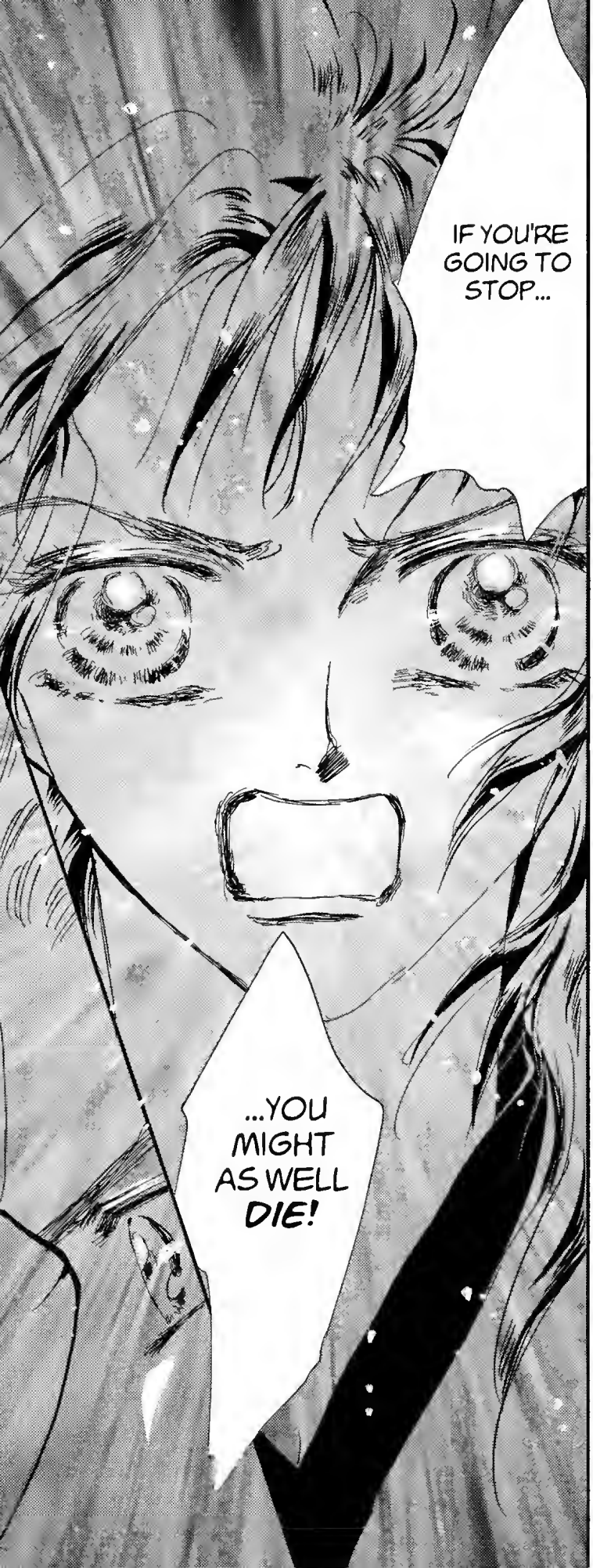
I'M GOING HOME TO BURY MY SISTER.
NORTH, MAYBE.

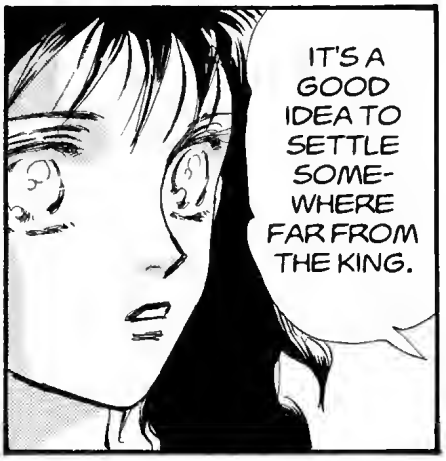

GENBU SHOULD BE SHEATHED FOR GOOD.
I SWEAR I'LL NEVER DRAW A SWORD AGAIN AS LONG AS I LIVE.

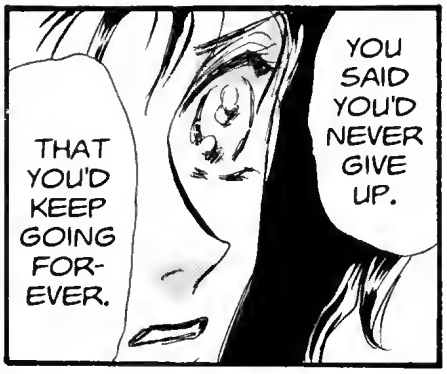

SEE YOU AROUND.
DON'T DIE.
THE GENBU SWORD ...
... WENT NORTH.

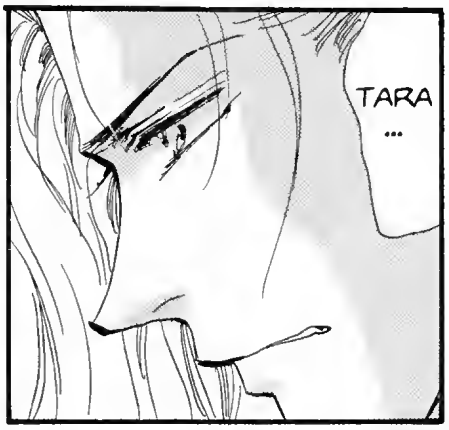

I MADE A BAM-BOO SWORD.
THIS IS ENOUGH FOR ME!

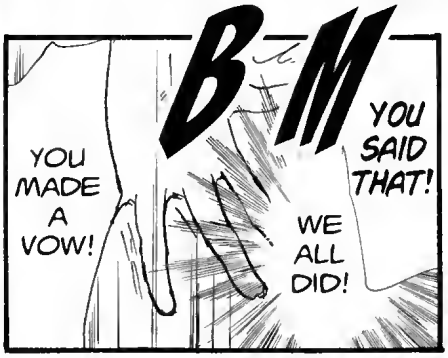

IT'S OVER.
...WE COULD CHANGE THE WORLD?
...DID WE EVER THINK...
WHY...
ENEMY TROOPS ARE GATHER-ING AROUND THE MOUN-TAIN.
WE HAVE TO ESCAPE.
HE WANTS TO GO TO THE WESTERN DESERTS.
WE CAN'T GIVE UP.
WE'RE JUST MAKING OUR ESCAPE SO WE CAN REGROUP, RIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT RE-VENGE?
THAT'S IT?
WE COULD GO OUT WITH A BANG AND TAKE SOME OF THEM OUT WITH US!


IF YOU'RE GOING TO STOP...
...YOU MIGHT AS WELL DIE!

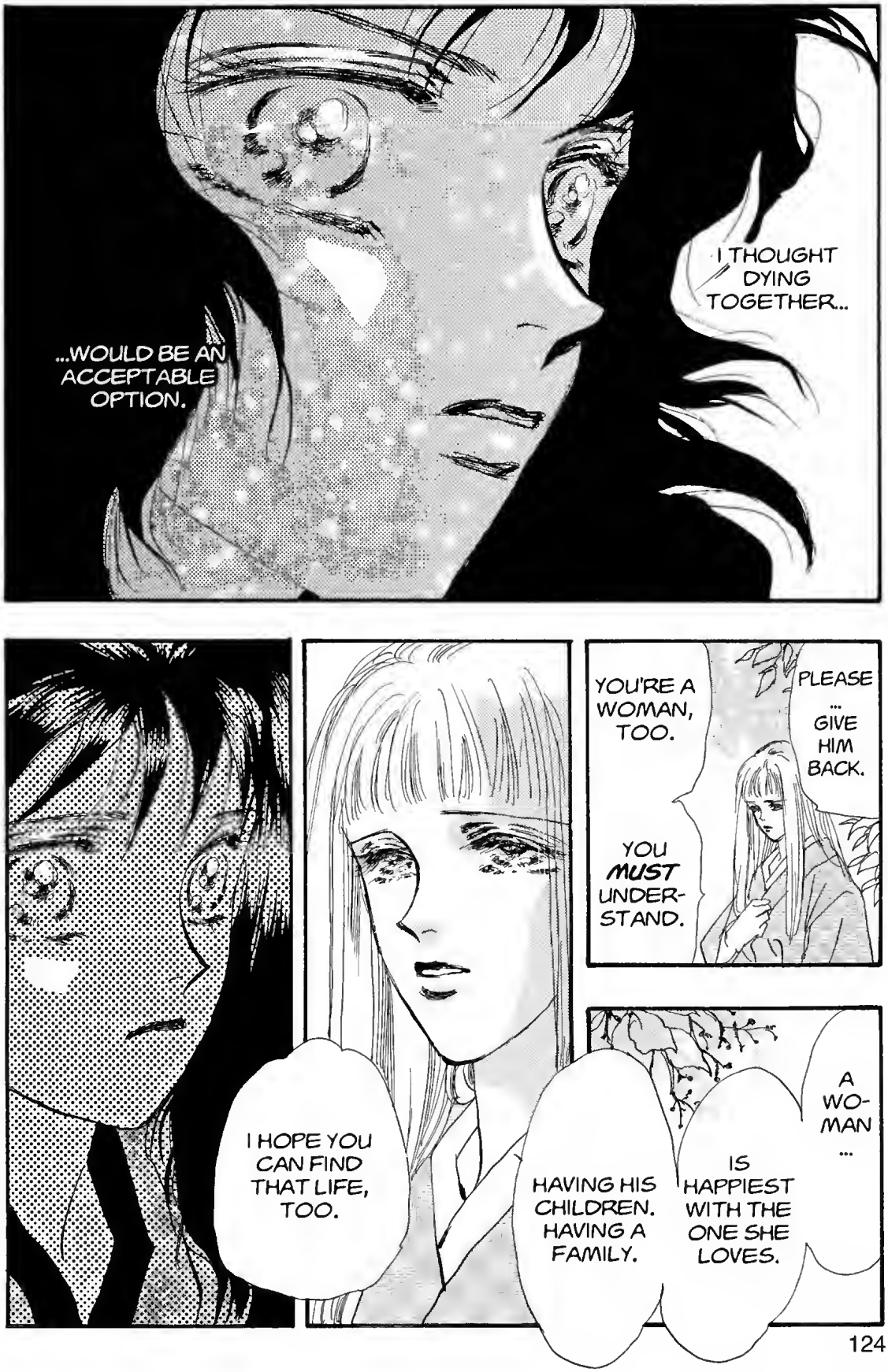

IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO SETTLE SOME-WHERE FAR FROM THE KING.


YOU SAID YOU'D NEVER GIVE UP.
THAT YOU'D KEEP GOING FOR-EVER.


TARA ...


BM
YOU SAID THAT!
YOU MADE A VOW!
WE ALL DID!

TARA!
BUT I DON'T BELONG ANYWHERE.
THAT I'D GO WHERE HE WENT.
SHF
I THOUGHT I BELONGED HERE.
HE SAID...
...WE'D KEEP GOING AS LONG AS WE LIVED.
IF YOU'VE REALLY BEEN CURSED...
...I DON'T WANT YOU NEAR HIM.
WE'RE HURT...
...BUT WE'RE STILL ALIVE.
THIS HAS BEEN HARD ON HIM.
PLEASE DON'T MAKE HIM FEEL ANY WORSE.
YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO DIE, DO YOU?
YOU CARE ABOUT HIM, TOO!


I THOUGHT DYING TOGETHER..
...WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE OPTION.
PLEASE ... GIVE HIM BACK.
YOU'RE A WOMAN, TOO.
YOU MUST UNDER-STAND.
A WO-MAN ...
IS HAPPIEST WITH THE ONE SHE LOVES.
HAVING HIS CHILDREN. HAVING A FAMILY.
I HOPE YOU CAN FIND THAT LIFE, TOO.

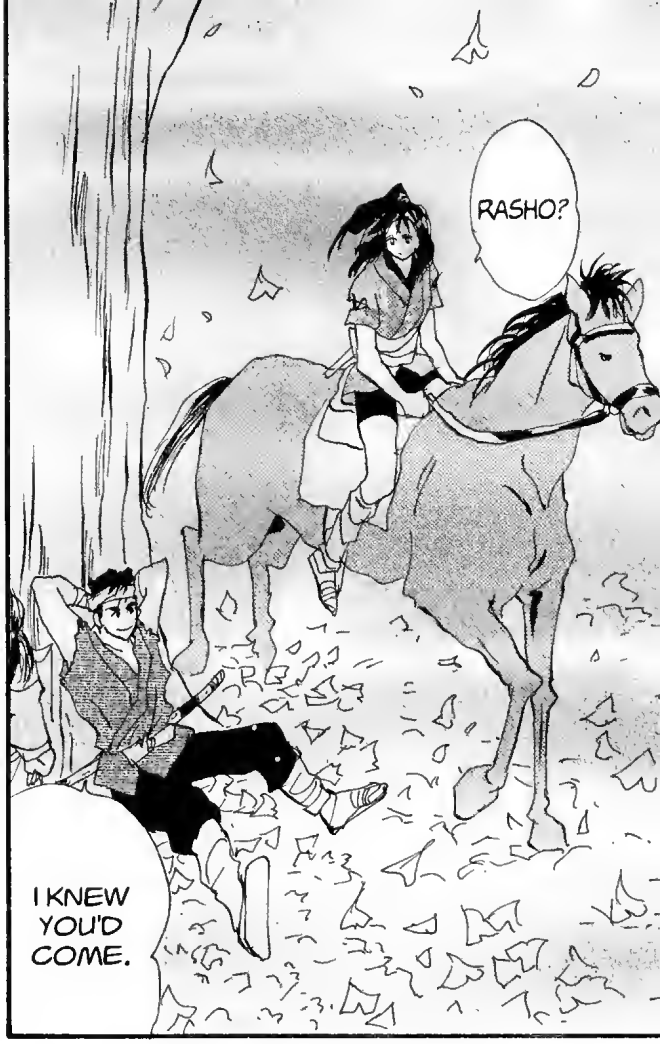
I WANT ...
TO DO SOME-THING ONLY I CAN DO.
ARE YOU PROUD ?
EVEN AN ANIMAL CAN DO THAT.
PROUD THAT GENSHO LOVES YOU?
SHE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
ARE YOU PROUD OF THIS?
I KNOW. SORRY.
SHE WAS HARSH TO ME FIRST.
BUT I GOT HURT MORE.
TARA.
THAT WAS A LITTLE HARSH, YOU KNOW.

BUT I FEEL...
...A FIRE WITHIN.
THERE'S NOTHING I CARE ABOUT.
I'VE NEVER LOVED ANOTHER.
I'VE NEVER BEEN LOVED.
...JUST TO FEEL THIS FIRE.
I CAN KEEP GOING FOR-WARD...
SIGH.
WHY CAN'T I JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT?
AND I...
ARGH.
ONLY BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID.
BECAUSE I'M CURSED...
TA-RA.
EVERY-ONE LOVES YOU.
THEY WORSHIP YOU. YOU'RE THE GODDESS OF VICTORY.

I APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE WHO FOLLOWED US THUS FAR.
I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO SUCCEED.
THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD.
GEN-SHO ...
ESCAPE NORTH UNDER THE COVER OF NIGHT.
TENMANYA SECURED US A SHIP AT WAKASA HARBOR.
THAT'S WHERE WE'LL PART WAYS.
GENSHO!
SOLDIERS COMING FROM THE SOUTH!
HURRY!
THEY'LL CUT US OFF SOON!
GEN ...
SHF SHF
YOU'LL BE FINE. WATCH YOUR STEP.
SHF SHF
WHERE'S TARA?

I'M NOT SO GOOD ON HORSE-BACK, THOUGH.

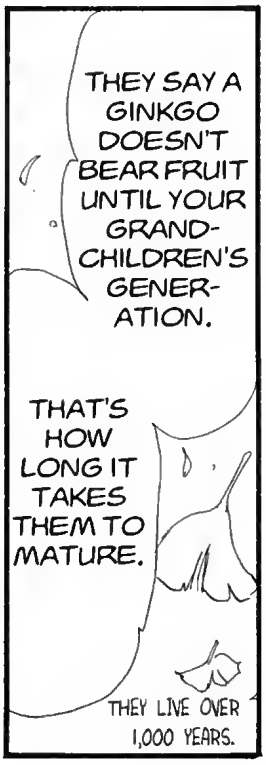
YOU'RE GOING TO CHARGE THEM...
...TO DRAW THEIR ATTEN-TION. RIGHT?

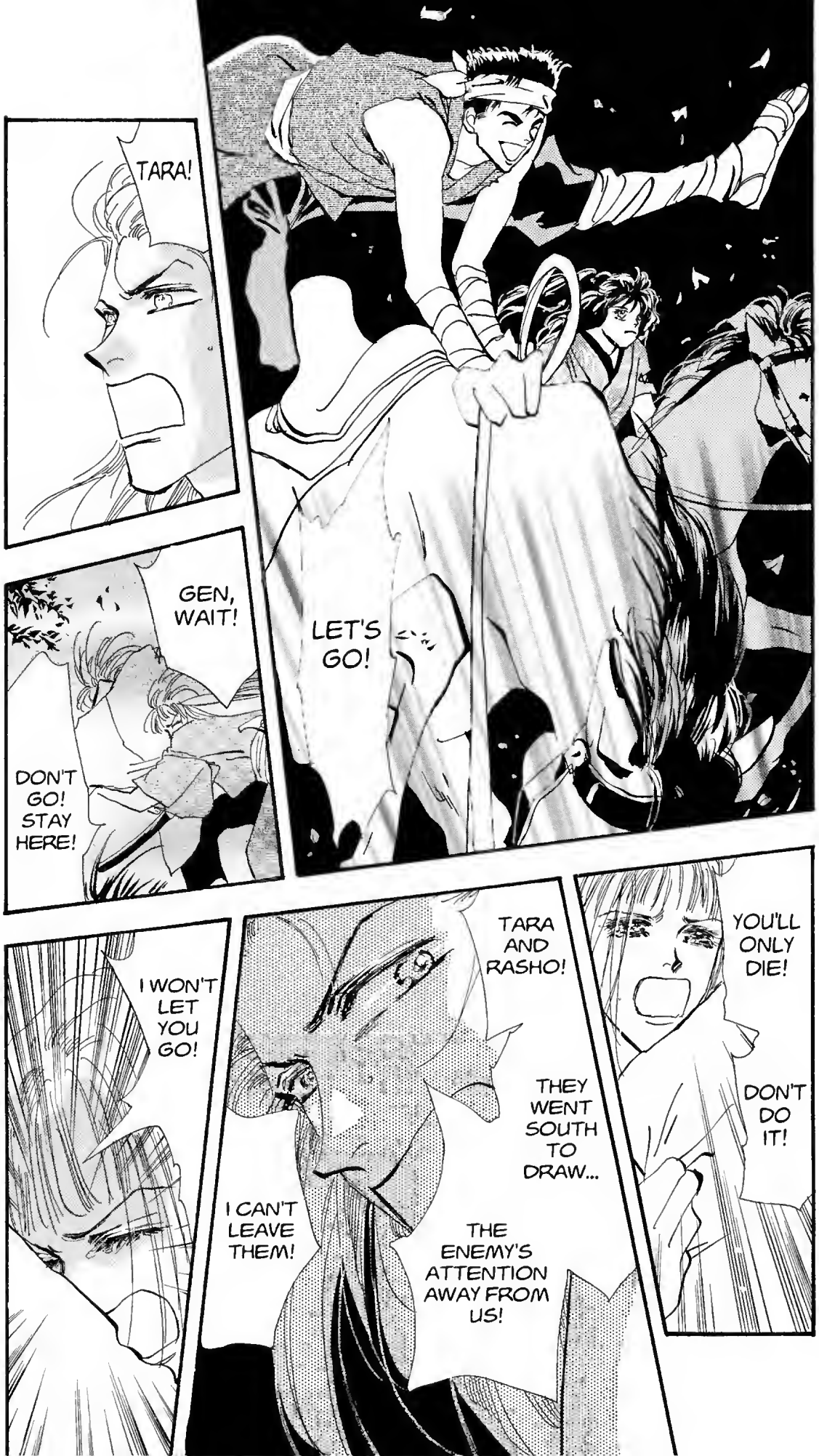

RASHO?
I KNEW YOU'D COME.

SAY.
LOOK AT THIS GINKGO TREE.
STILL TOO YOUNG TO BEAR FRUIT.
IT'S FEMALE.

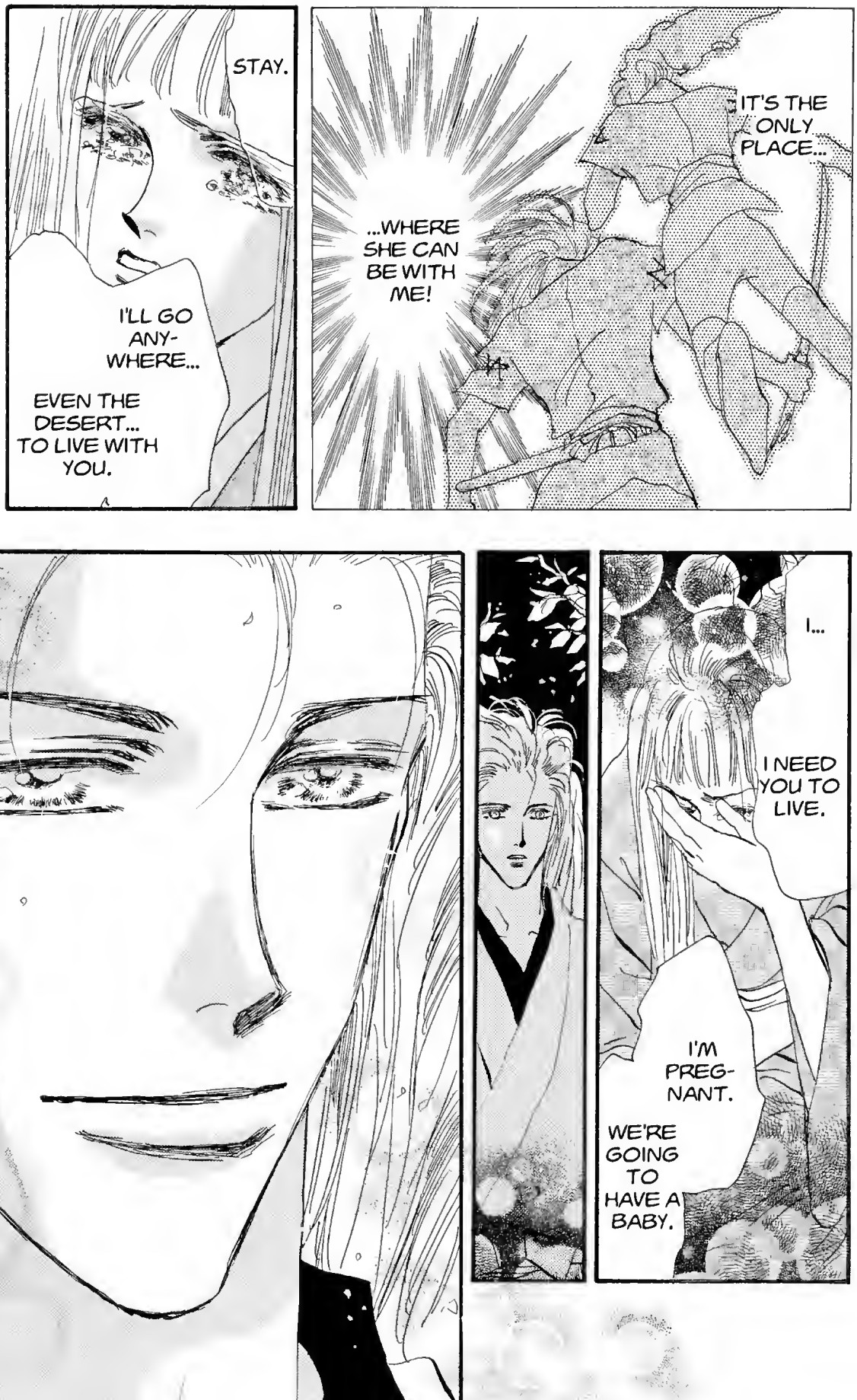
BY THE TIME OF OUR GRAND-CHILDREN ...
...MAYBE SOMEONE WILL COME ALONG WHO CAN OVERTHROW THE ROYAL FAMILY.

MAYBE THE SAME GOES FOR US.
IT WASN'T OUR TIME.


THEY SAY A GINKGO DOESN'T BEAR FRUIT UNTIL YOUR GRAND-CHILDREN'S GENER-ATION.
THAT'S HOW LONG IT TAKES THEM TO MATURE.
THEY LIVE OVER 1,000 YEARS.


TARA!
LET'S GO!
GEN, WAIT!
DON'T GO! STAY HERE!
I WON'T LET YOU GO!
TARA AND RASHO!
THEY WENT SOUTH TO DRAW...
I CAN'T LEAVE THEM!
THE ENEMY'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM US!
YOU'LL ONLY DIE!
DON'T DO IT!

I WON'T LET YOU GO!
BUT I'M A WOMAN, TOO!
TARA MADE A CHOICE.
IT MAY BE ONE WAY TO LIVE AS A WOMAN!
SHE WON'T BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU GO BACK! IT'S SUICIDE!
SO YOU COULD LIVE!
TARA LEFT TO SAVE YOU!
...IT'S THE ONLY PLACE SHE BELONGS.
SHE WENT BECAUSE ...
...TO LET ME LIVE.
TARA DIDN'T RIDE INTO BATTLE...
NO.


STAY.
I'LL GO ANY-WHERE...
EVEN THE DESERT... TO LIVE WITH YOU.
...WHERE SHE CAN BE WITH ME!
IT'S THE ONLY PLACE...
I...
I NEED YOU TO LIVE.
I'M PREG-NANT.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BABY.

DM DM DM
RASHO!
WHAT?
TARA!
DON'T YOU GET IT?
I LOVE YOU, YOU IDIOT!
YOU...
OWW!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME.
THIS BATTLE ISN'T FOR VICTORY.
TARA!

THANKS.
NO-BODY EVER SAID THAT BE-FORE.
DAMN IT!
HERE THEY COME!
WAAH
DM
IT'S THAT WOMAN!
GET READY FOR THEM! THEY'RE COMING!
DM
IIIAAA
THE REST OF THEM MUST BE BEHIND HER!
GEN-SHO'S WITH ME.
THIS IS THE MOMENT...
...I CAN BE WITH HIM.

...HE'S HERE WITH ME.
I FEEL HIM.
JUST FOR THIS MOMENT...
I CAN BE...
...ONE WITH HIM.
EVEN IF WE CAN'T BE IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS...
EVEN IF WE CAN'T LOVE EACH OTHER...
...I FEEL HIM...

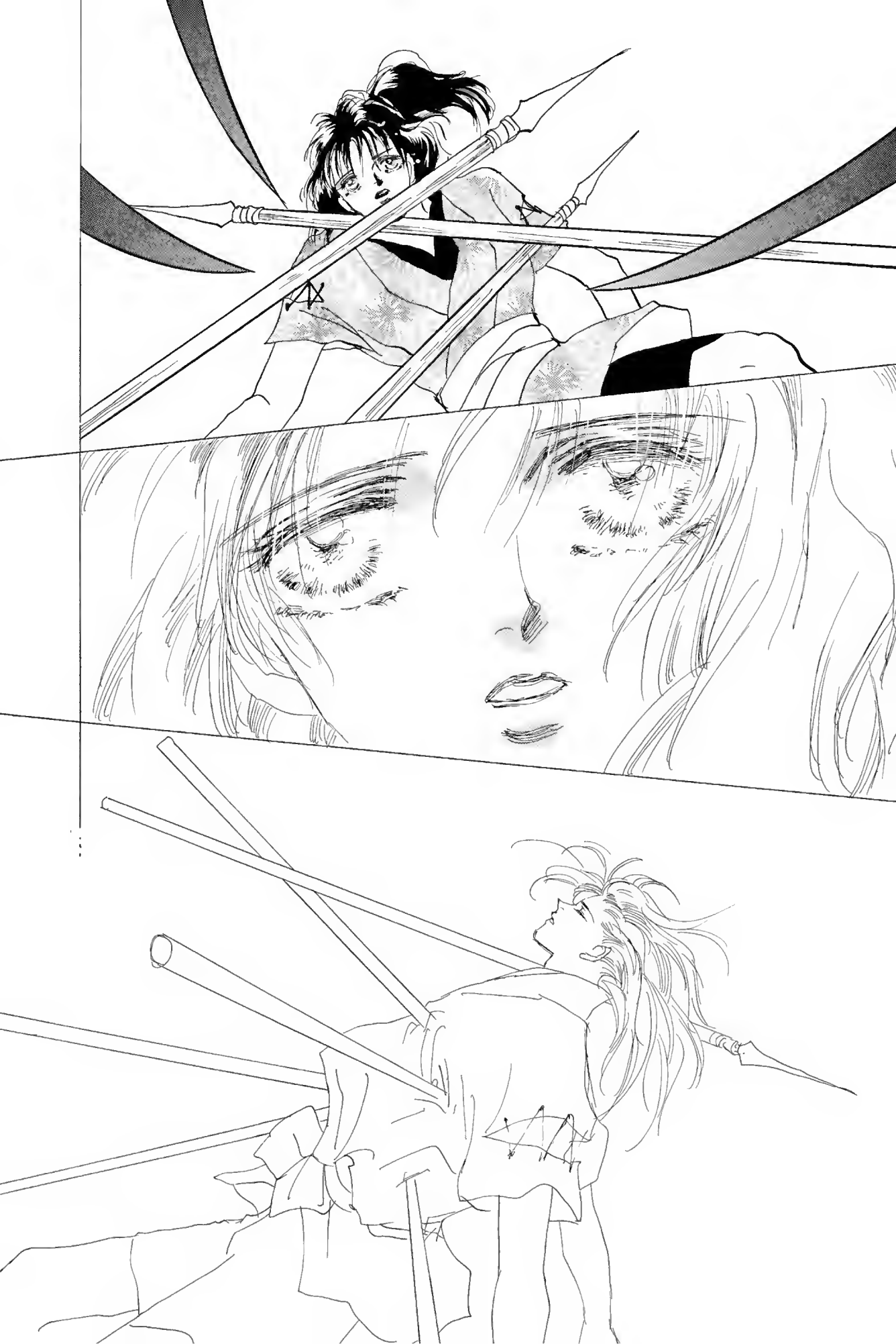
TARA!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN LEAVE THE LEADER BEHIND?
GENSHO!

TO THIS FIRE WITHIN.

IT'S MORE THAN AN EMBRACE.

IT'S MORE THAN LOVE.

WE
RIDE
AS
ONE.



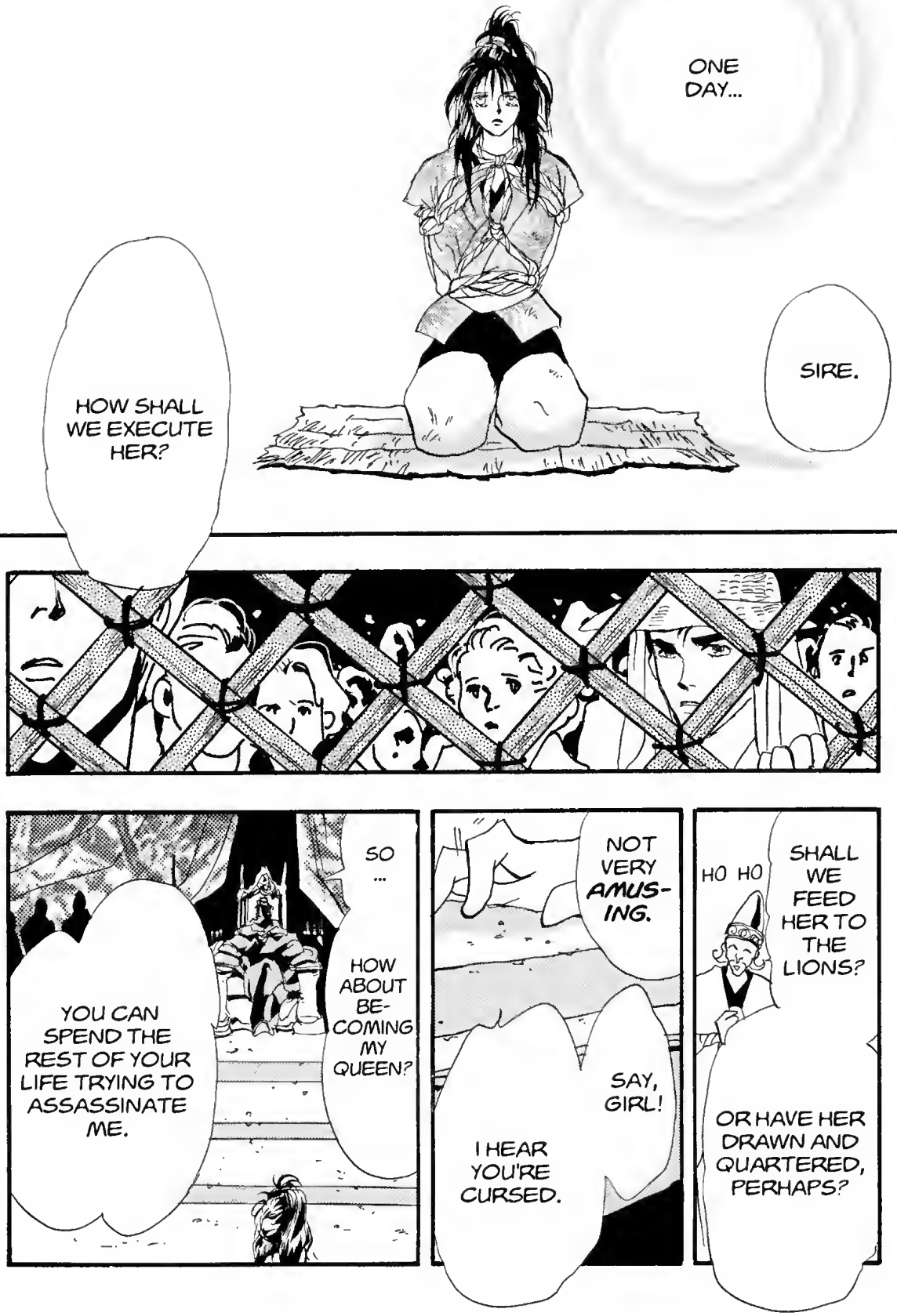
OUR GOALS WEREN'T LOFTY ENOUGH TO SPARK A REVOLUTION.

WE DIDN'T RISE UP UNDER AN OATH OF BLOOD AND SACRIFICE OURSELVES TO A CAUSE.

WE WERE WEAK.

WE WERE HUMAN.

BUT ONLY HUMAN BEINGS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

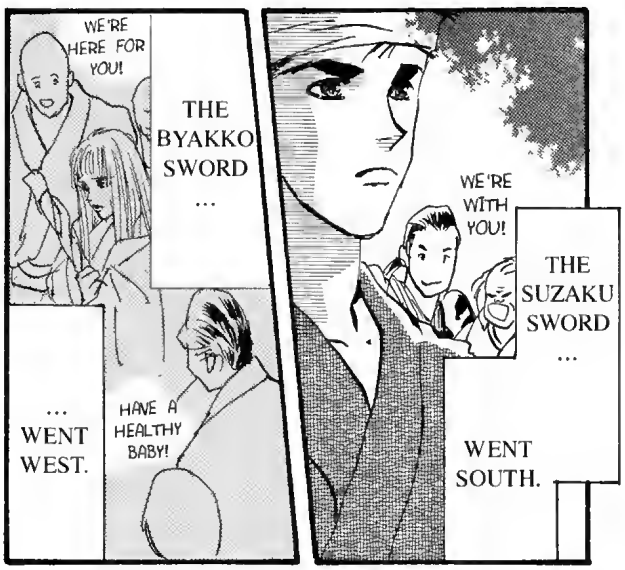

ONE DAY...
SIRE.
HOW SHALL WE EXECUTE HER?
HO HO
SHALL WE FEED HER TO THE LIONS?
OR HAVE HER DRAWN AND QUARTERED, PERHAPS?
NOT VERY AMUSING.
SAY, GIRL!
I HEAR YOU'RE CURSED.
SO ...
HOW ABOUT BECOMING MY QUEEN?
YOU CAN SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TRYING TO ASSASSINATE ME.

SO I WILL PRAY TO THE MOON IN THE SKY.

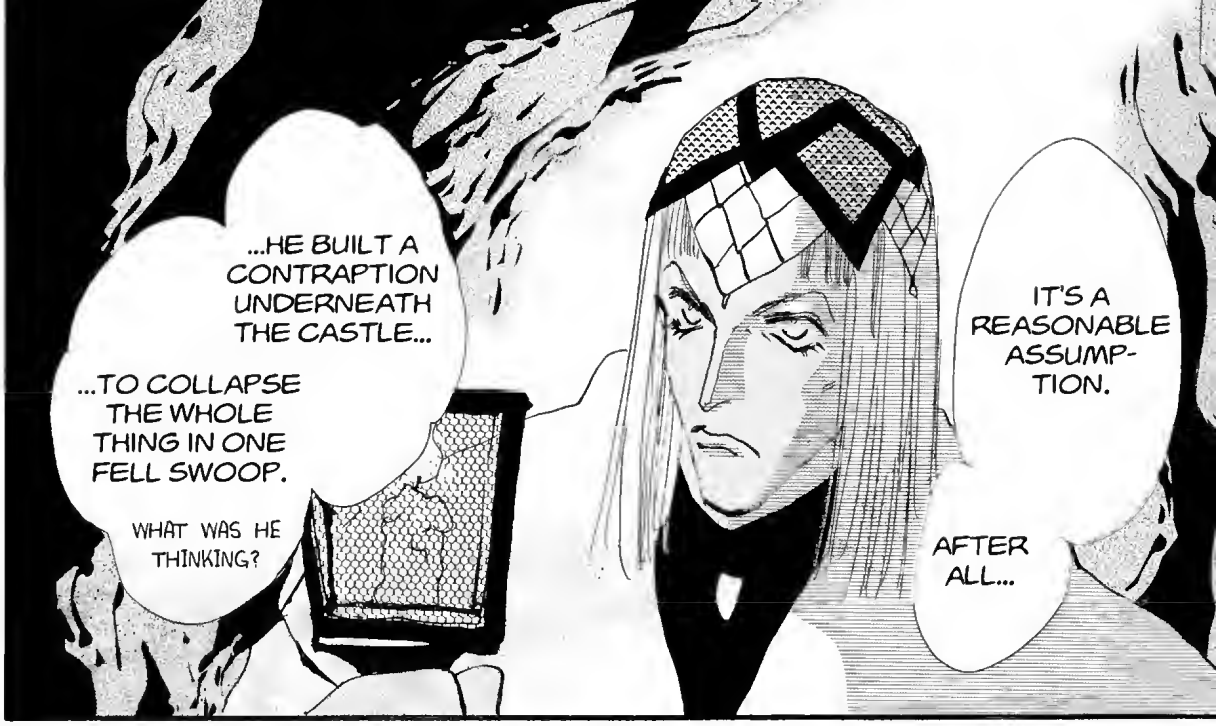
TENMANYA SAID THERE'S NO GOD IN THIS WORLD.

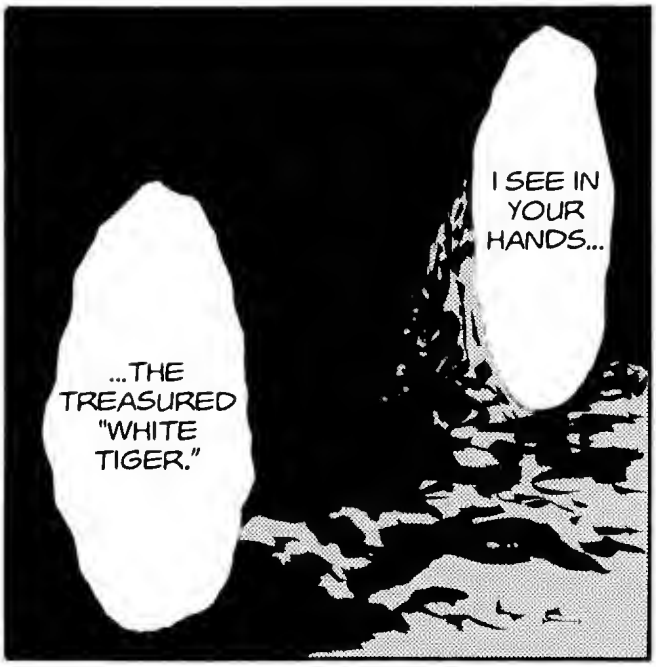
"A MINOR INSURGENCY BY BASARA FOLK."

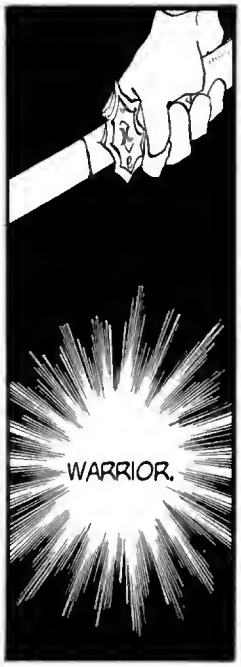
ONLY A SHORT PASSAGE WAS RECORDED IN THE ROYAL HISTORIES:



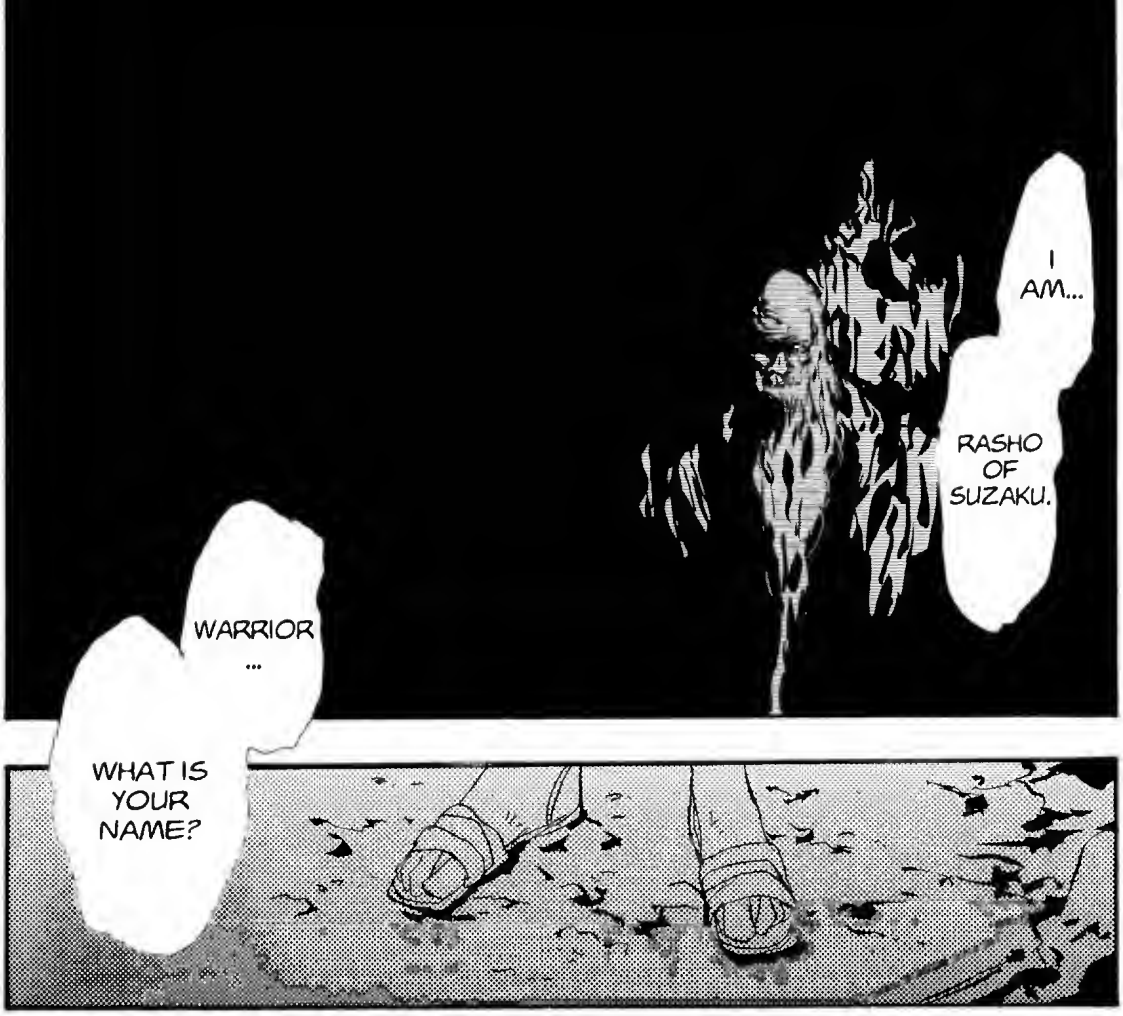
THERE WAS NO RECORD THAT THE FOUR TREASURED SWORDS...
WERE EVER STOLEN.
THE LION KING WAS AN INTERESTING RULER.
YOU MEAN LIKE ME?
WAS THE LION KING OUT TO DESTROY THE ROYAL FAMILY?
OH, NO, COUN-CILOR! I MEAN...
PERHAPS HE JUST HAD TOO MUCH TIME ON HIS HANDS.
TP TP
THE CHILD SHE BORE...
HEADS THE LINEAGE THAT LEADS TO KING UKON.
HERE'S A PORTRAIT OF THE KING AND HIS QUEEN.
HE WED A COMMON-ER AND A CRIMINAL, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.


...HE BUILT A CONTRAPTION UNDERNEATH THE CASTLE...
...TO COLLAPSE THE WHOLE THING IN ONE FELL SWOOP.
WHAT WAS HE THINKING?
IT'S A REASONABLE ASSUMP-TION.
AFTER ALL...

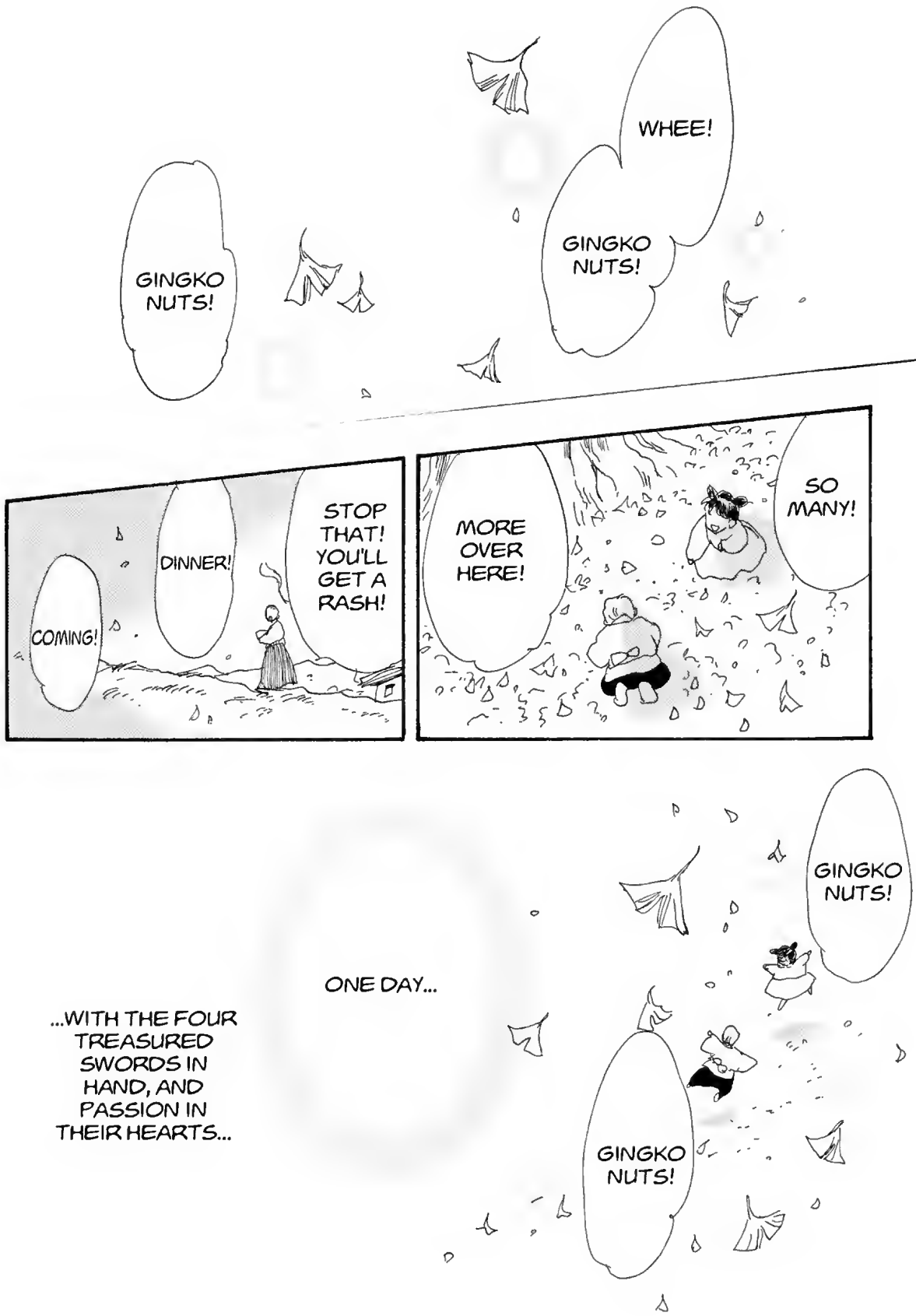

I SEE IN YOUR HANDS...
...THE TREASURED "WHITE TIGER."


WARRIOR.

IT SMELLS LIKE THE OCEAN.


I AM...
RASHO OF SUZAKU.
WARRIOR ...
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

TATARA.


GINGKO NUTS!
WHEE!
GINGKO NUTS!
COMING!
DINNER!
STOP THAT! YOU'LL GET A RASH!
MORE OVER HERE!
SO MANY!
ONE DAY...
...WITH THE FOUR TREASURED SWORDS IN HAND, AND PASSION IN THEIR HEARTS...
GINGKO NUTS!
GINGKO NUTS!

...THE WEAK WILL RISE TO TAKE A STAND.
KATANA: END.

BONUS STORY
TAM-TAM TIME

TAMU

HELLO AGAIN!

THERE WASN'T ANY SPACE IN VOLUME 25, SO I'D LIKE TO COMMENT ABOUT THE BONUS EPISODES HERE!

At first, I planned for all the bonus stories to have the same title: KANATA ("Beyond"). But then I thought some more and came up with different ideas, so I made each title different. I had a bunch of funny ones, too. Like PAJAMA, DAGANE and DAGAYA (Japanese dialects), and BAKADA ("Idiot"). I also related each story to a fruit and an imaginary creature.

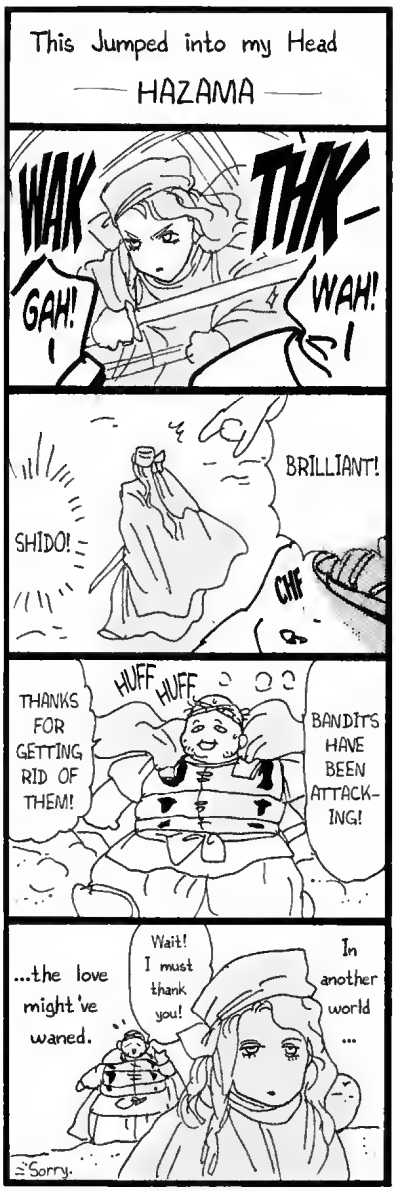
So who was Asagi, anyway? Some questions still remained at the end. (SORRY.)

Only Hiiragi knew the answer...I leave it up to your imagination. You see, it doesn't matter to Asagi himself anymore...He is who he is. So I hope you can leave it at that. I was told some scenes in this story were too brutal and graphic, but the subject was life and death. I never considered censoring anything. To everyone who tried hard to understand, thank you!

About HAZAMA

I was excited to get the chance to draw Shido after so long.
(I really like Shido. I wonder why.)

I got dizzy just imagining Ageha in a red cloak and armor. (I'd like to do a color illustration some time.) I guess the way I drew it was misleading. A lot of people mistook that kiss scene. It was all Ageha's imagination!



Ageha did his best.
He lived his life to the fullest.
He was a kind man.
He was very dear to me.

It still makes me cry.

I FOUND OUT...

Though he might like it that way.

Ageha with both eyes looks too gaudy.

I had fun taking the time to draw these two. They have their own way of doing things, and they're not afraid to state their opinions. They're in the core group of characters, but they do their own thing.

Strangely, all the readers loved them.

About NAKAMA ナカマ

When I was in grade school, another girl and I hated each other at first sight. Later, we became great friends and did all sorts of things together. We still hang out. Come to think of it, I always end up liking people I'm not supposed to get along with according to my horoscope. Why?

About DAKARA... ダカラ

I didn't mean to make it funny... It's really a bittersweet story.

This Jumped into my Head

How did you like the story about the characters' great-grandparents? Isn't it fun to imagine who's descended from whom? ♡ I wish I could've drawn more of the Lion King. It's interesting to imagine how he and Tara fared afterwards. I wanted to do this story for a long time, so I'm glad I was able to spend 100 pages on it. The present exists because of the past...

About KATANA カタナ

THIS TITLE FITS PERFECTLY!

AND MORE

Volume 27 will contain a story about what happened to Sarasa and Shuri after the revolution. And I plan to include something set even further in the future, too. I hope you enjoy it! It will be the final volume of BASARA. Thank you so much for your support! Just hang on a little longer! ▷ ≡

Please be patient!

YUMI TAMURA

About BASAROM

The BASARA CD-ROM, "BASAROM," came out in January 1999 (from Shogakukan)! Please check it out if you have a computer! ♡ ≡ There's a really cute screensaver with the characters in 3-D (and a really cool one, too) and lots of wallpaper! ♡ You can also make customized postcards. Give it a try to commemorate the end of BASARA!

This is the cover. I made it yellow.

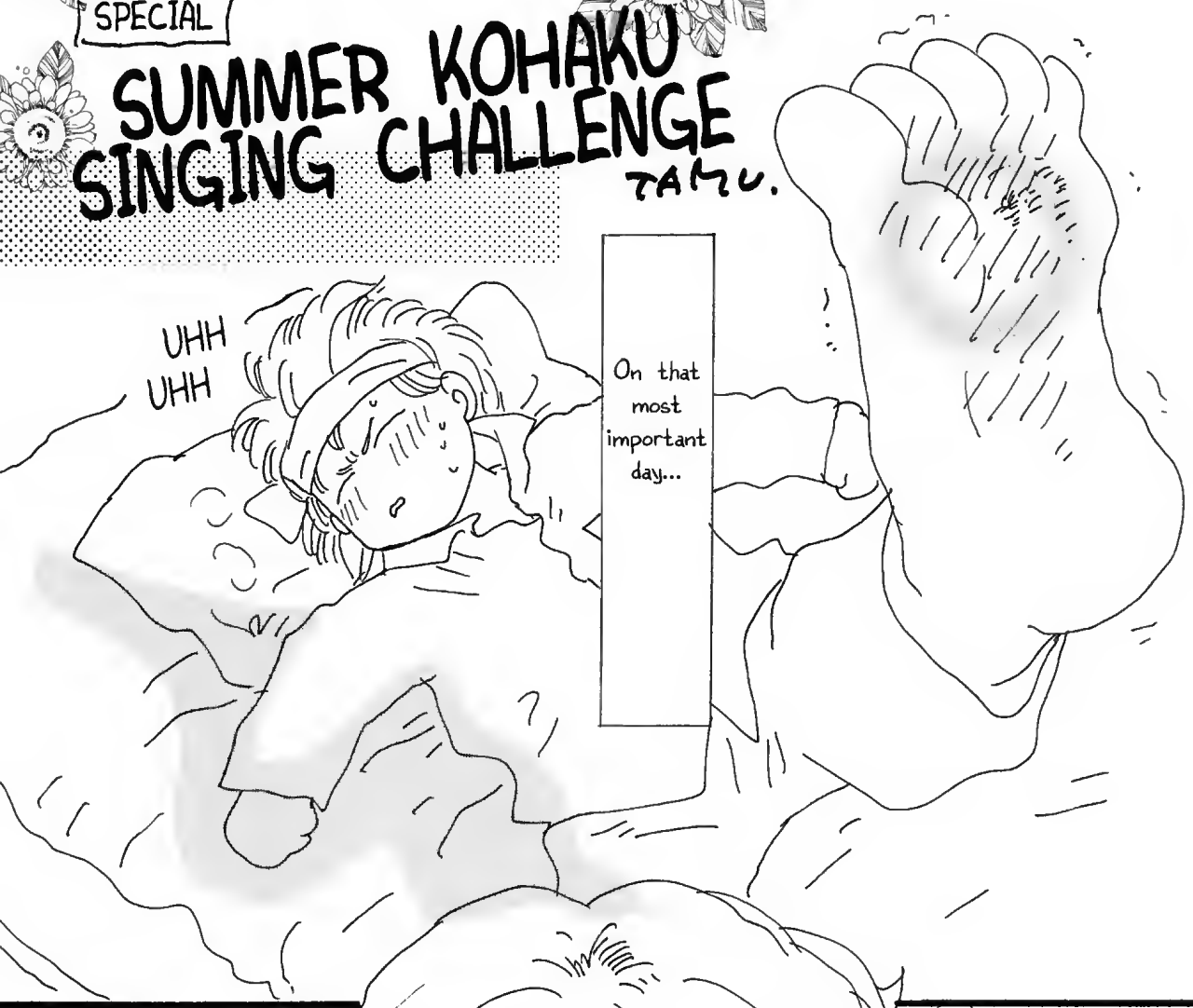
P.S.... I included another comedy extra after this. I drew this for a little comic book I published myself called "BASARAN." (It's out of print now.) It's rather silly, but I hope you'll read it with an open mind. Sorry.

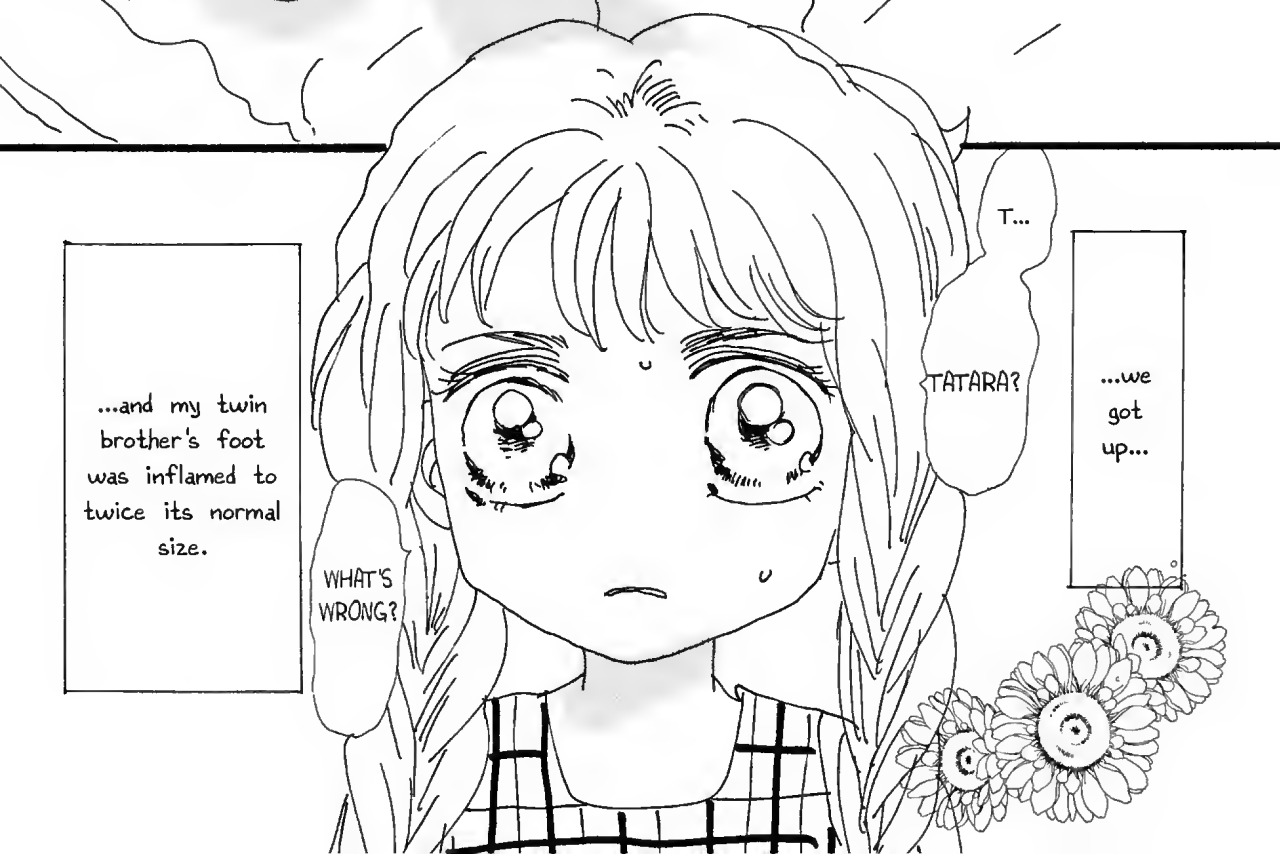
TAM-TAM EXTRA

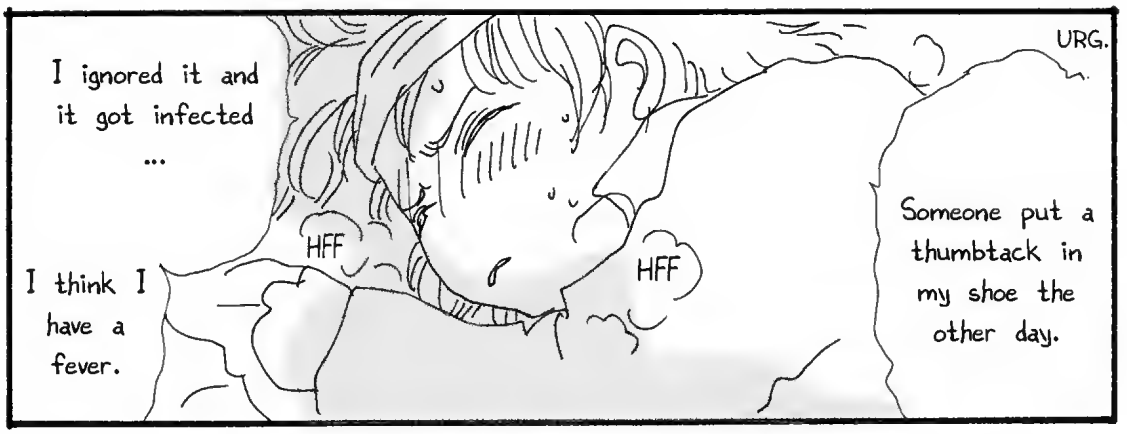
SPECIAL

SUMMER KOHAKU SINGING CHALLENGE

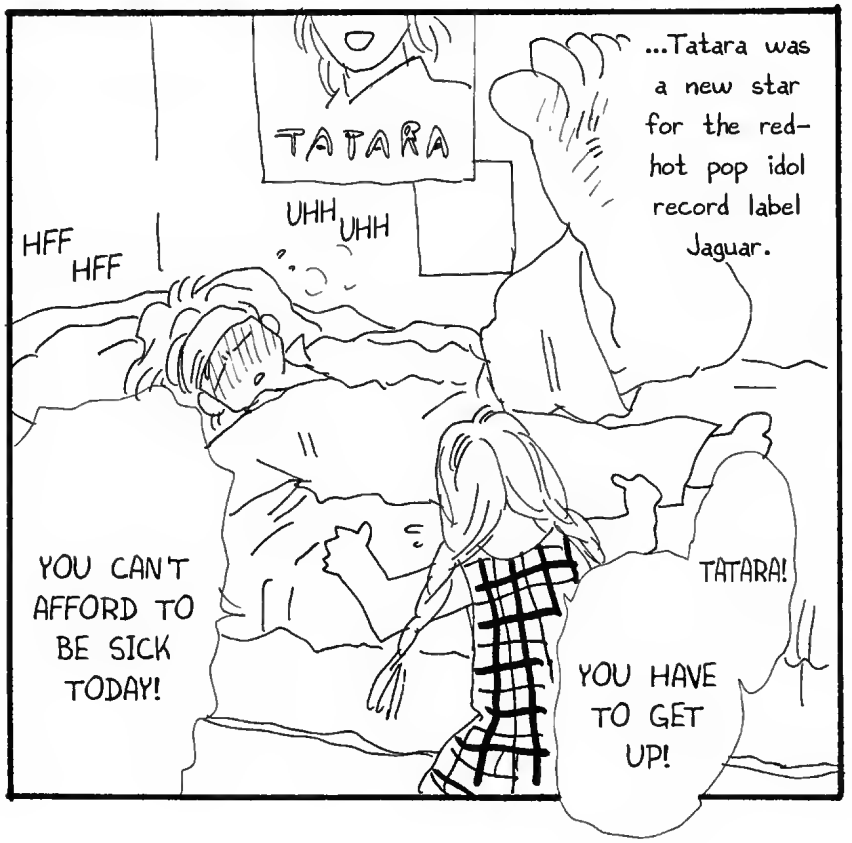
TAMU.



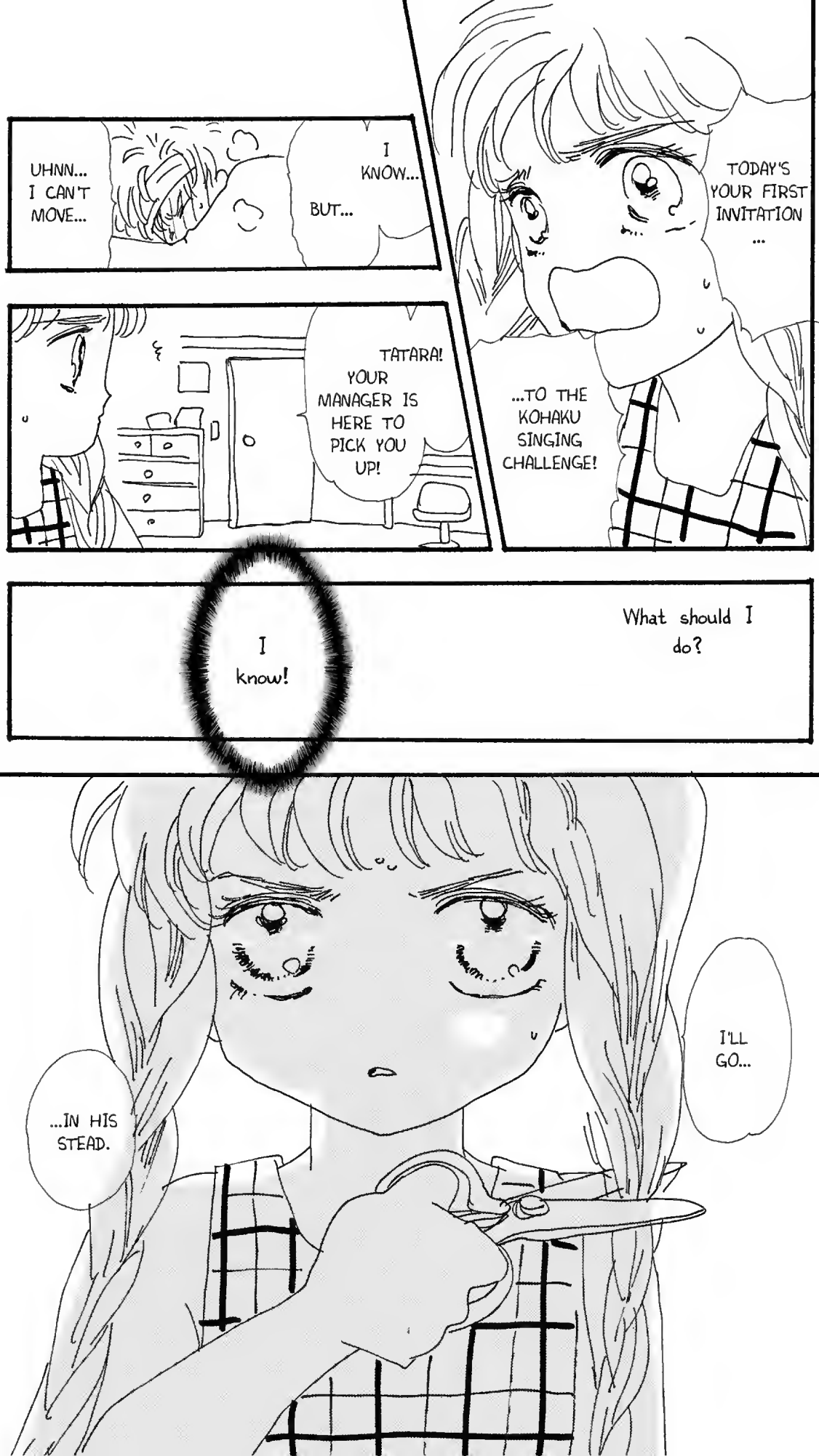


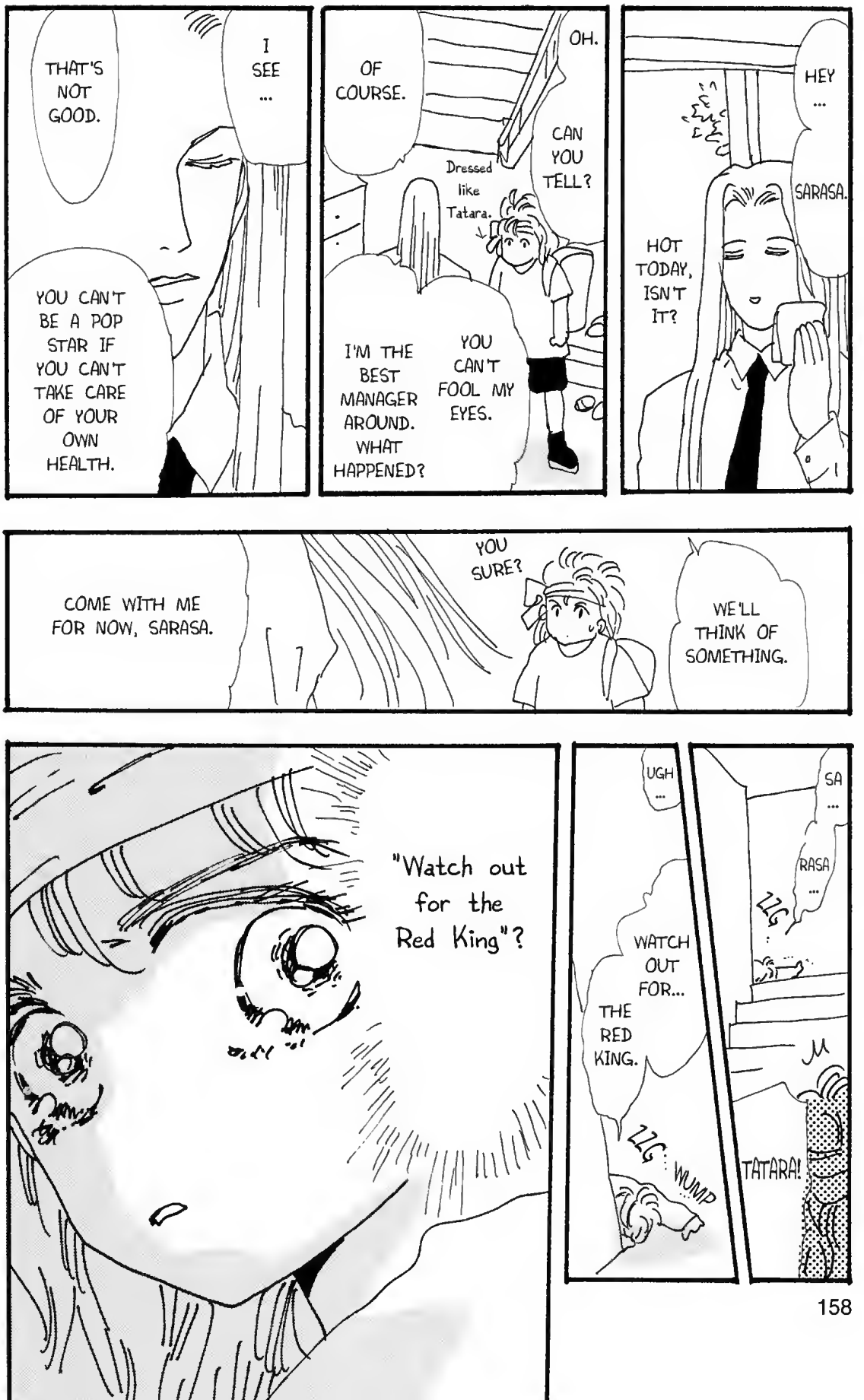

I ignored it and it got infected ...
I think I have a fever.
HFF
HFF
URG.
Someone put a thumbtack in my shoe the other day.

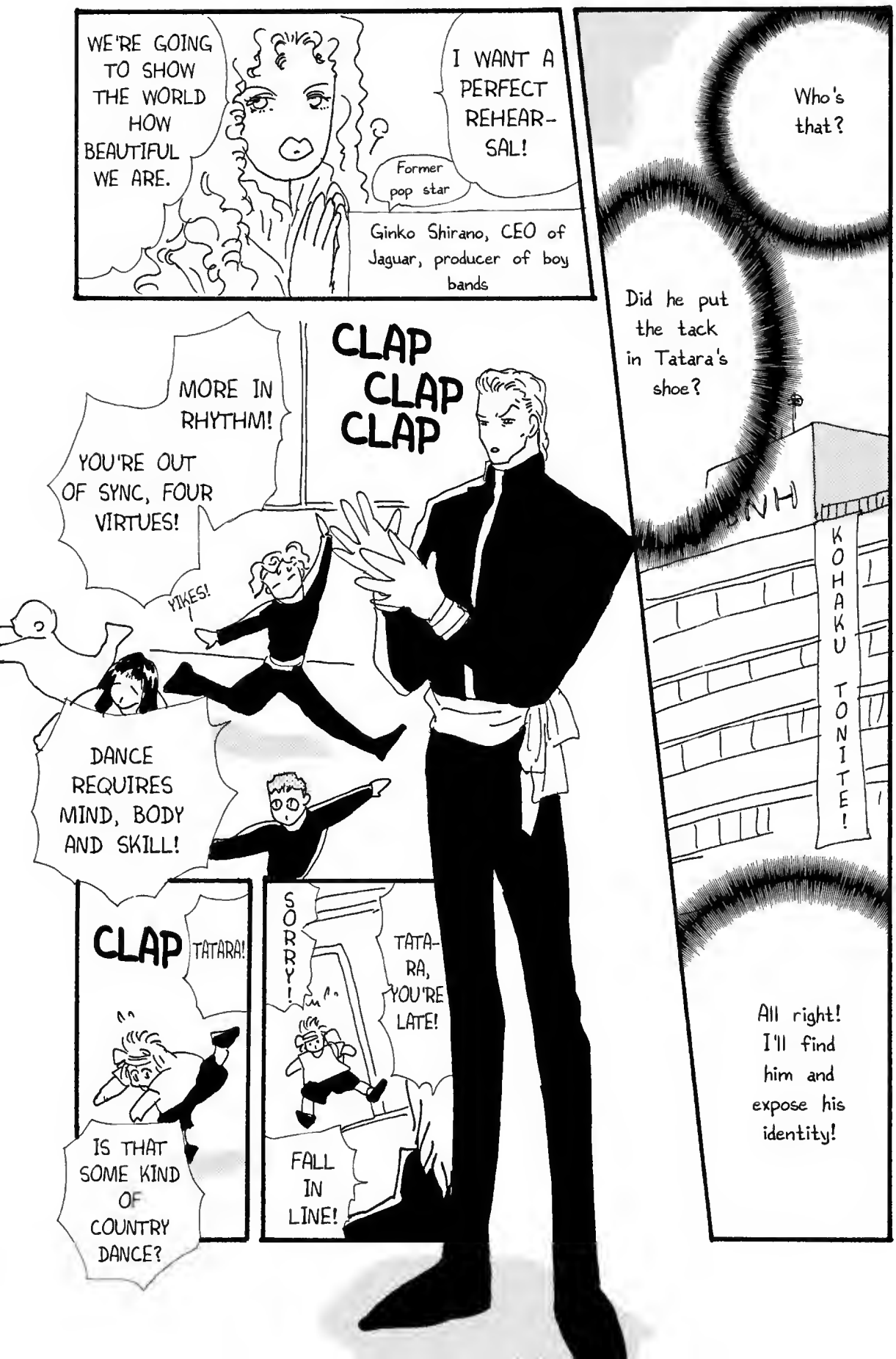
That's the oldest trick in the book!
OH NO!
A thumbtack in his shoe!
Also called a pushpin.

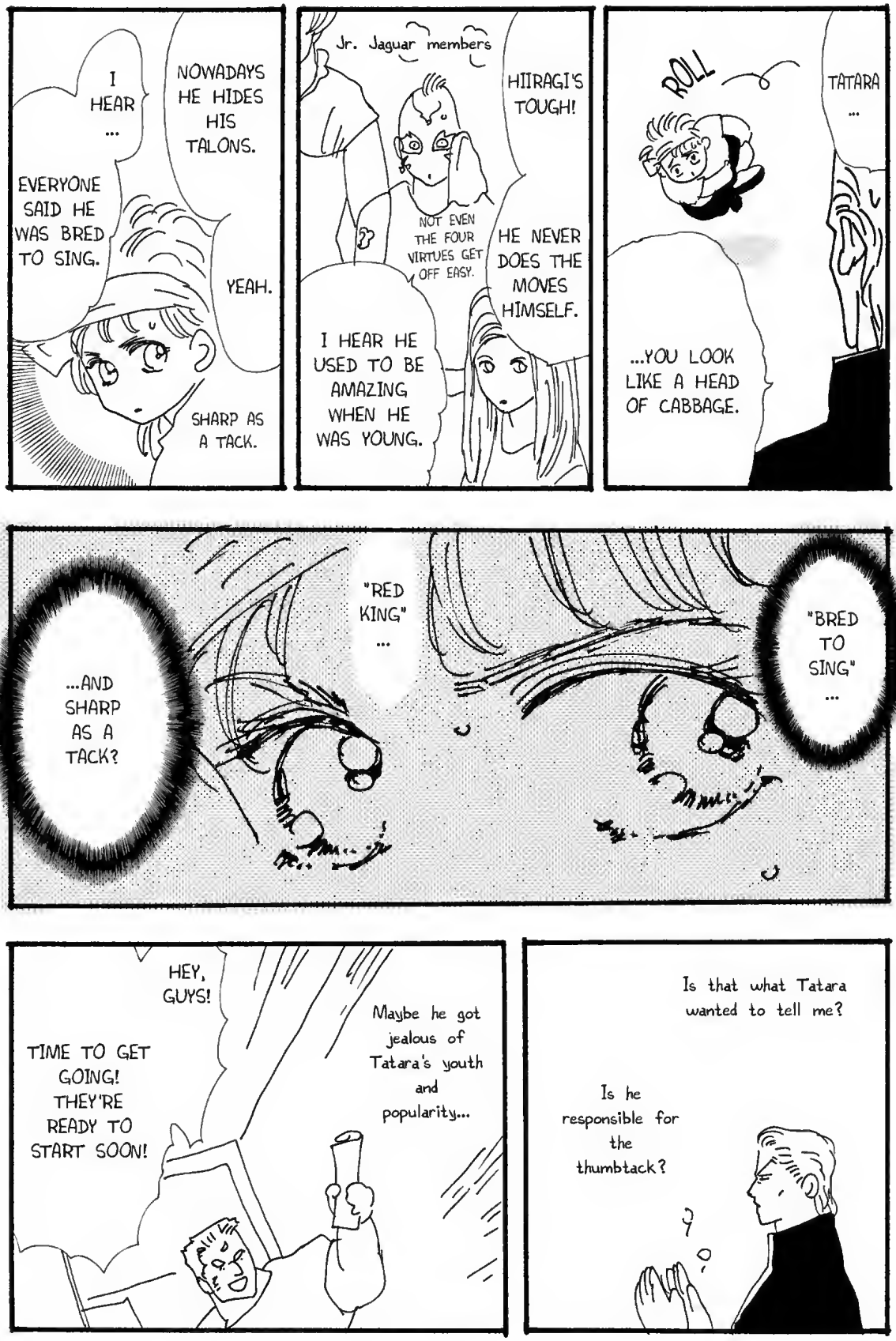

TATARA
UHH UHH
HFF HFF
...Tatara was a new star for the red-hot pop idol record label Jaguar.
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SICK TODAY!
TATARA!
YOU HAVE TO GET UP!

I don't know. There's a lot of desperate people... in the music industry.
Who'd do such a thing?
HOW DARE THEY?
...
Yes, you see...


TODAY'S YOUR FIRST INVITATION ...
...TO THE KOHAKU SINGING CHALLENGE!
I KNOW... BUT...
UHNN... I CAN'T MOVE...
TATARA! YOUR MANAGER IS HERE TO PICK YOU UP!
What should I do?
I know!
I'LL GO...
...IN HIS STEAD.


I SEE ...
THAT'S NOT GOOD.
YOU CAN'T BE A POP STAR IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN HEALTH.
OH.
OF COURSE.
CAN YOU TELL?
Dressed like Tatara.
I'M THE BEST MANAGER AROUND. WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU CAN'T FOOL MY EYES.
HEY ...
SARASA.
HOT TODAY, ISN'T IT?
COME WITH ME FOR NOW, SARASA.
YOU SURE?
WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.
"Watch out for the Red King"?
UGH ...
WATCH OUT FOR... THE RED KING.
ZZG... WUMP
SA ...
RASA ...
ZZG...
TATARA!


WE'RE GOING TO SHOW THE WORLD HOW BEAUTIFUL WE ARE.
I WANT A PERFECT REHEAR-SAL!
Former pop star
Ginko Shirano, CEO of Jaguar, producer of boy bands
Who's that?
Did he put the tack in Tatara's shoe?
KOHAKU TONITE!
All right! I'll find him and expose his identity!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
MORE IN RHYTHM!
YOU'RE OUT OF SYNC, FOUR VIRTUES!
YIKES!
DANCE REQUIRES MIND, BODY AND SKILL!
CLAP
TATARA!
IS THAT SOME KIND OF COUNTRY DANCE?
SORRY!
TATA-RA, YOU'RE LATE!
FALL IN LINE!


I HEAR ...
NOWADAYS HE HIDES HIS TALONS.
EVERYONE SAID HE WAS BRED TO SING.
YEAH.
SHARP AS A TACK.
Jr. Jaguar members
HIIRAGI'S TOUGH!
NOT EVEN THE FOUR VIRTUES GET OFF EASY.
HE NEVER DOES THE MOVES HIMSELF.
I HEAR HE USED TO BE AMAZING WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
ROLL
TATARA ...
...YOU LOOK LIKE A HEAD OF CABBAGE.
...AND SHARP AS A TACK?
"RED KING" ...
"BRED TO SING" ...
HEY, GUYS!
TIME TO GET GOING! THEY'RE READY TO START SOON!
Maybe he got jealous of Tatara's youth and popularity...
Is that what Tatara wanted to tell me?
Is he responsible for the thumbtack?

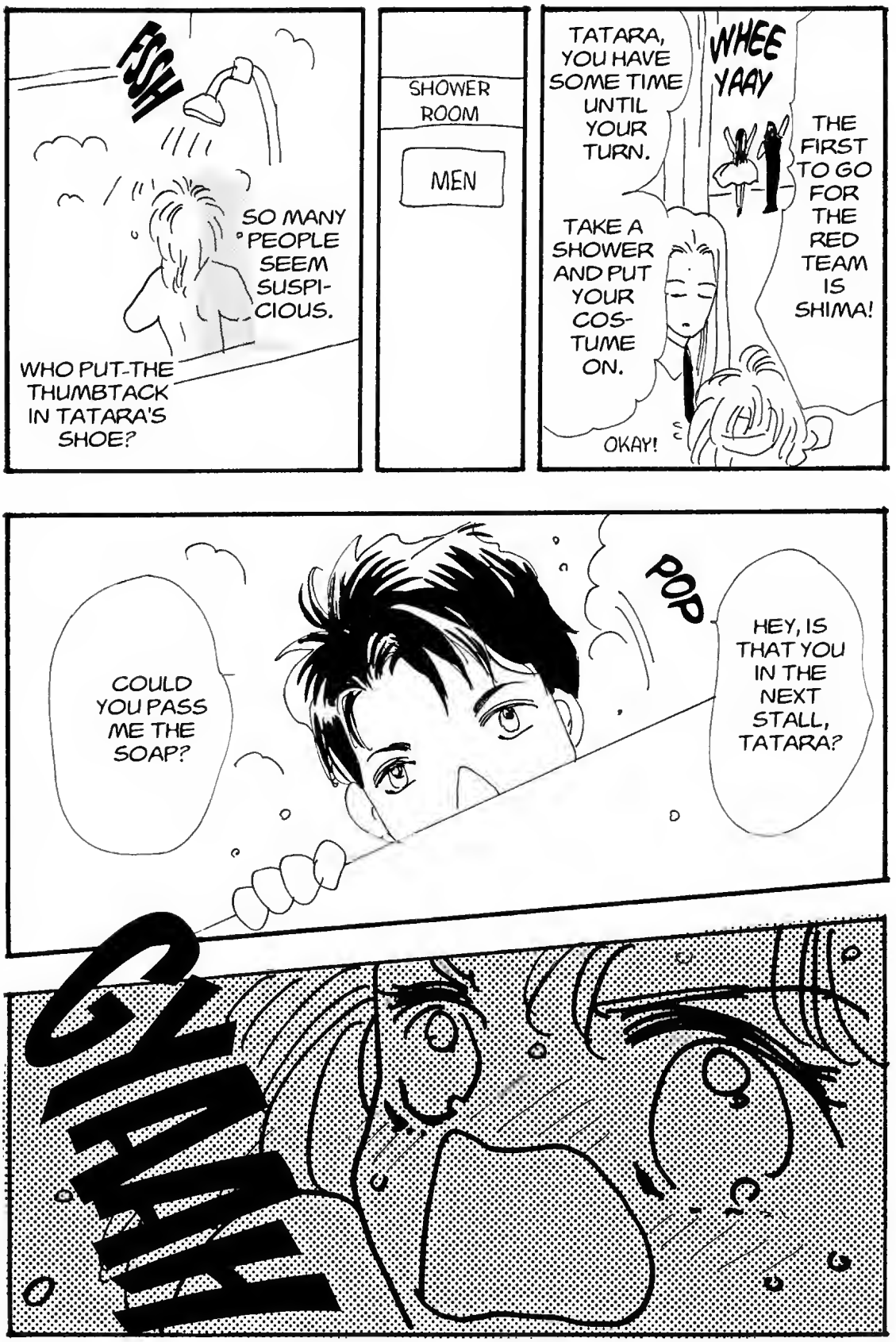
TMP TMP
BDMP BDMP BDMP
SOON ...
I HAVE TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD.
BUT I'M SO TONE DEAF.
WHAT'LL I DO?
YAAY
ARE YOU READY TO ROCK THE HOUSE?
WOO
WHEE
I'M TATARA RIGHT NOW!
DON'T GIVE UP!
REMEMBER...

YAY
WOO
WOO
LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN!
HERE WE ARE AGAIN FOR AN EVENING OF LOVE AND LAUGHS... THE KOHAKU SUMMER CONCERT!
WE'RE LIVE!
HIJIRI!
WOO
WOO
WHEE
I'M "KISHU KID" NACHI, HOST FOR THE MALE STARS, THE WHITE TEAM!
I'M HIJIRI, HOST FOR THE FEMALE STARS, THE RED TEAM!
NACHI! WE LOVE YOU!
WELL, HERE I AM!
WHAT THE HECK?
LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!
FIRST UP, ON THE WHITE TEAM...
TA-DA!
WHEE
HOW SO?
WHEN THEY FIRST SAW YOU, PEOPLE THOUGHT YOU WERE A GIRL.
HA!
ARE YOU SAYIN' I SHOULD CROSS-DRESS?
WHY ARE YOU WITH THE BOYS...
WOO
WOO
AND I'M WITH THE GIRLS?
IT CAN BE NO OTHER WAY.

WHY SHOULD I GO FIRST?
THAT SHOULD BE A JOB FOR THE NEWBIES.
WOO
WOO
WOO
YOUR BELLY BUTTON'S SHOWIN'!
ASAGI!
...ASAGI, PRINCE OF THE NEW CENTURY, AND HIS BACKUP DANCERS, THE FOUR VIRTUES!
MURATAKE!
HI!
ASAGI!
HONESTLY. HE NEEDS TO PAY HIS DUES.
LIKE TATARA, FOR IN-STANCE.
WHAT PRINCE?
IGNORE HIM, TATARA.
HE'S THE KING OF THE BUTT-HEADS!
THEIR SONG IS "SAPPHIRE BLUES"!
HE'S A JAGUAR, TOO.
DOES HE NOT GET ALONG WITH TATARA?
SAY WHAT?
RED KING...
BUTTHEAD KING...
IS HE THE ONE?

BLUE, BLUE, I LOVE BLUE...
I TRAVEL IN SEARCH OF BLUE... THE WATERS AND THE SKIES BELONG TO ME...
YOUR EYES BELONG TO ME, TOO...

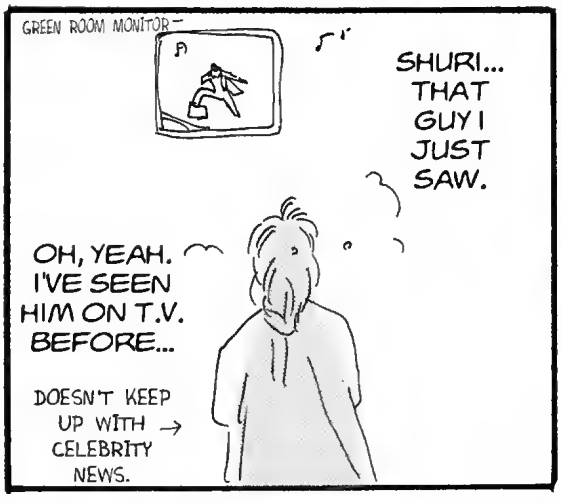
ALL THE SAPPHIRES IN THE WORLD ARE MINE...


FSSH
SO MANY PEOPLE SEEM SUSPI-CIOUS.
WHO PUT THE THUMBTACK IN TATARA'S SHOE?
SHOWER ROOM
MEN
TATARA, YOU HAVE SOME TIME UNTIL YOUR TURN.
TAKE A SHOWER AND PUT YOUR COS-TUME ON.
OKAY!
WHEE YAAY
THE FIRST TO GO FOR THE RED TEAM IS SHIMA!
COULD YOU PASS ME THE SOAP?
POP
HEY, IS THAT YOU IN THE NEXT STALL, TATARA?
GYAA

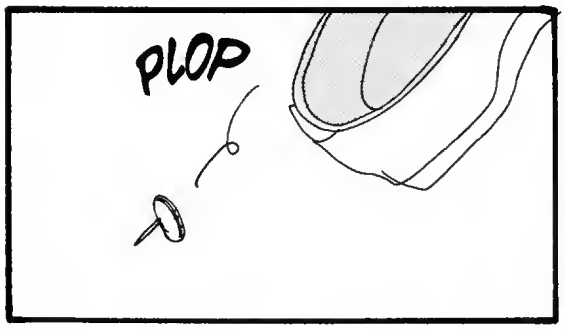
UMM...
FSSH
NOO!
NOO!
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
I CAN'T SEE!
WHAT?
WHY ...
HE...
HE SAW ME!
ALL OF ME!
...A GIRL?
TATARA IS...
MANAGER
SIRE!
PEUH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE UP!
PLASH
THEN WHY ARE YOU ON THE WHITE TEAM?

I AM THE TEMPEST!
I AM THE STORM!
I'LL WIN IN THE END!
NEXT UP!
YOU CAN'T HAVE A PARTY WITHOUT HIM!
HE'S PERFORMED HERE FIVE YEARS RUNNING!
SHURI'S SONG IS "I'LL WIN IN THE END"!
LAME TITLE.
WHAT GIVES?
I CAN'T WATCH!
AND HE'S DRIPPIN' WET.

IF HE'S THE STORM, HOW IS HE SUMMONING THE STORM?
HIS LYRICS DON'T MAKE SENSE.
LISTEN TO HIM.
HE HAS A LOT OF MALE FANS.
YAAY WOO SHURI!!

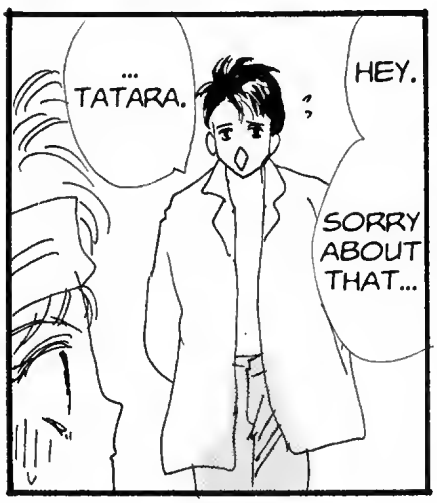

GREEN ROOM MONITOR
SHURI... THAT GUY I JUST SAW.
OH, YEAH. I'VE SEEN HIM ON T.V. BEFORE...
DOESN'T KEEP UP WITH → CELEBRITY NEWS.

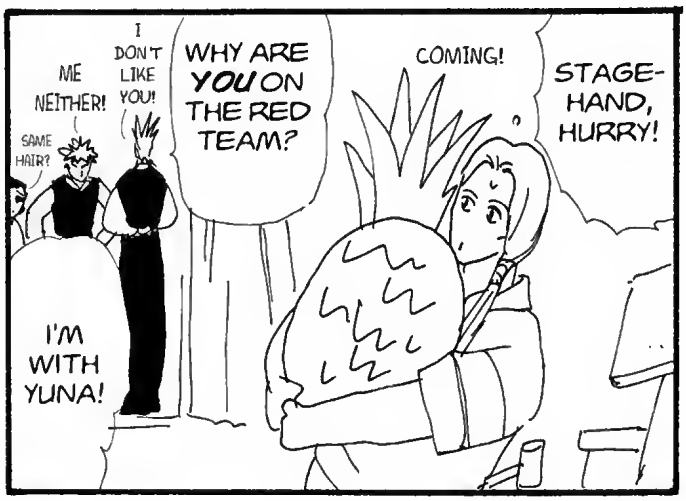
AND HE SAW ME NAKED!
OH MY GOD!

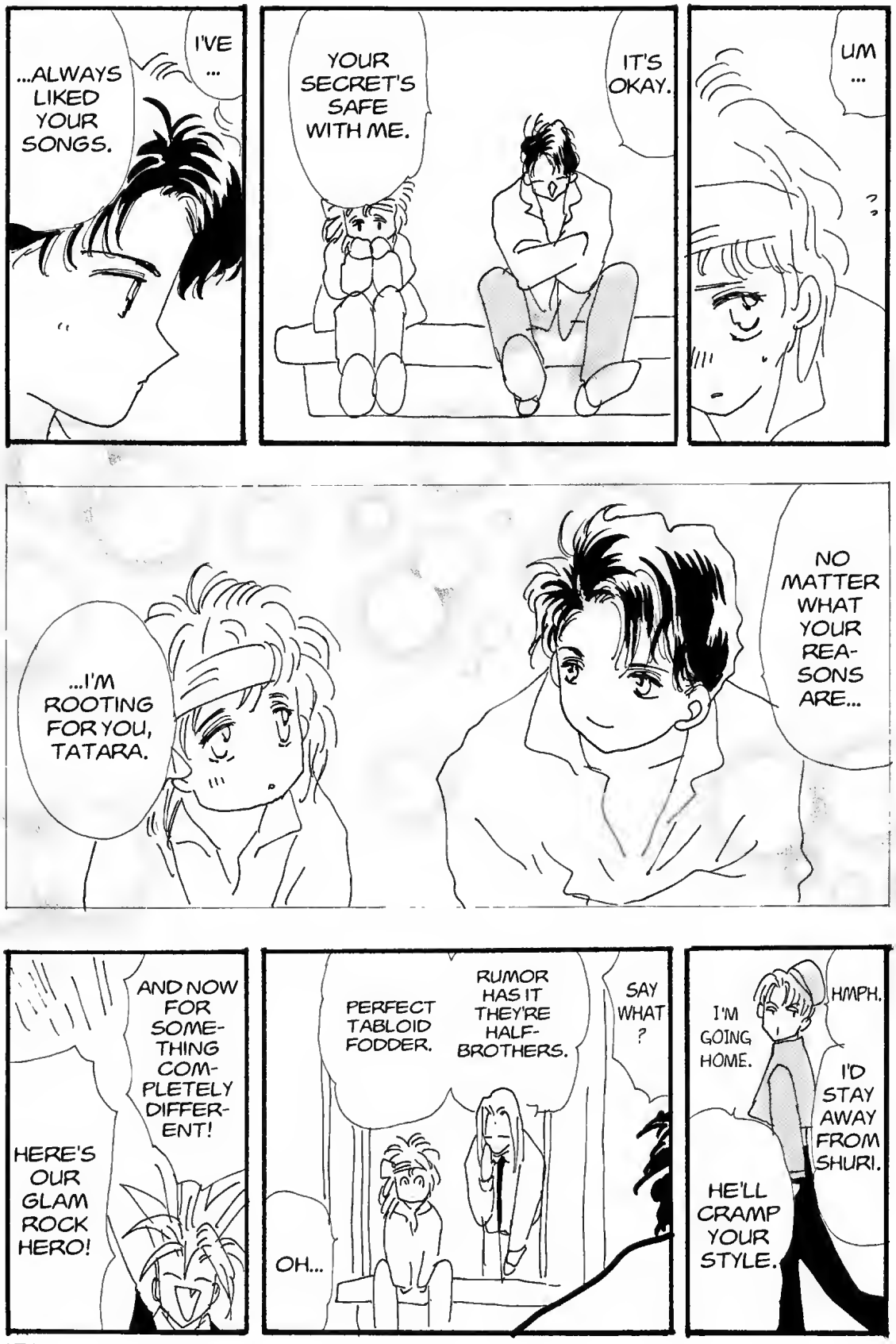

PLOP

GO...GO...
I'LL SUMMON A STORM!

YAAY
WOO WOO
FROM BASHO ACTING SCHOOL!
OKINAWA FEVER IS SWEEPIN' THE NATION!
YUNA AND NAKIJIN!
WHO'S DOING THIS?
ANOTHER THUMB-TACK?
WHO COULD IT BE?
IS THIS THE ONLY TRICK HE KNOWS?

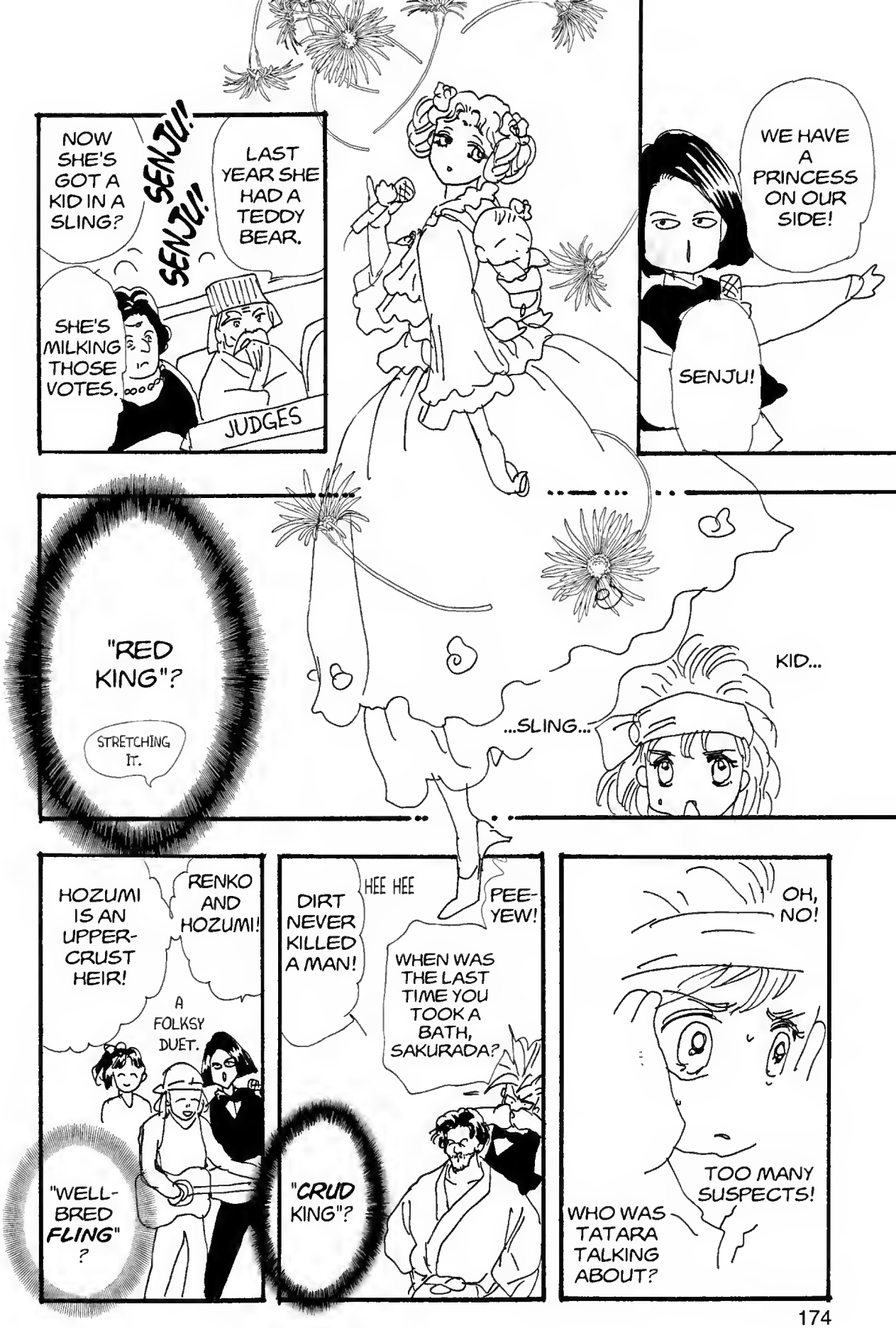

...TATARA.
HEY.
SORRY ABOUT THAT...


SAME HAIR?
ME NEITHER!
I DON'T LIKE YOU!
I'M WITH YUNA!
WHY ARE YOU ON THE RED TEAM?
COMING!
STAGE-HAND, HURRY!

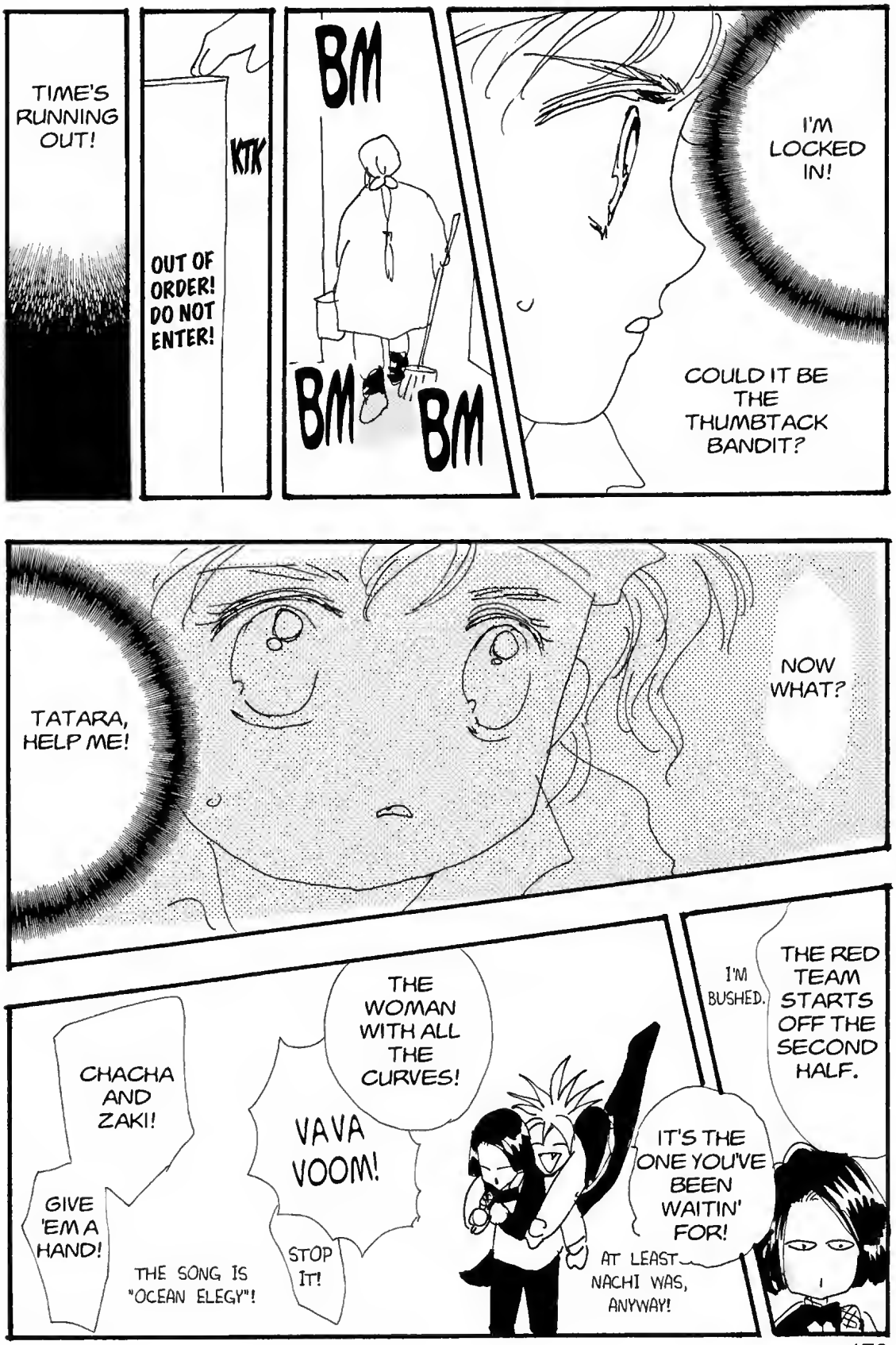

...ALWAYS LIKED YOUR SONGS.
I'VE ...
YOUR SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME.
IT'S OKAY.
UM ...
?
...I'M ROOTING FOR YOU, TATARA.
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR REA-SONS ARE...
HERE'S OUR GLAM ROCK HERO!
AND NOW FOR SOME-THING COM-PLETELY DIFFER-ENT!
OH...
PERFECT TABLOID FODDER.
RUMOR HAS IT THEY'RE HALF-BROTHERS.
SAY WHAT ?
I'M GOING HOME.
HMPH.
I'D STAY AWAY FROM SHURI.
HE'LL CRAMP YOUR STYLE.

ANOTHER JOKE BAND?
SAY WHAT?
AGEHA AND THE GEISHA GUYS! (SORT OF.)
I LOOOVE YOU!

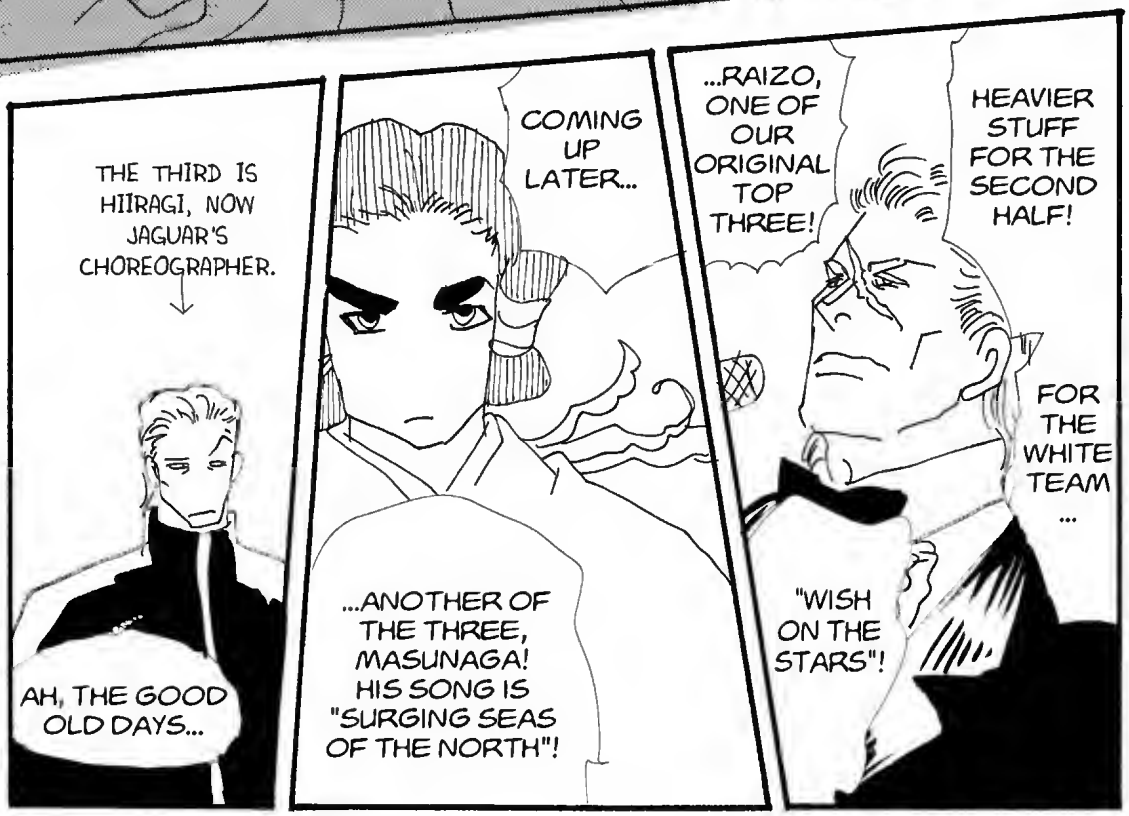
WHAT'S WITH THE RED TAIL? AND THE BLING?
WOO WOO
YAY!
DOESN'T THIS GET HOT IN THE SUMMER?
WHEE
THE THEME FOR TODAY IS "MONKEYS."
WATCH OUT FOR THE RED KING...
RED... BLING?
"RED KING" ...
"RED BLING"?
ARE THEY THE ONES?
SEARCHING FOR THE WOMAN OF MY DESTINY...


NOW SHE'S GOT A KID IN A SLING?
SENJU!!
SENJU!!
LAST YEAR SHE HAD A TEDDY BEAR.
SHE'S MILKING THOSE VOTES.
JUDGES
WE HAVE A PRINCESS ON OUR SIDE!
SENJU!
KID...
...SLING...
"RED KING"?
STRETCHING IT.
HOZUMI IS AN UPPER-CRUST HEIR!
RENKO AND HOZUMI!
A FOLKSY DUET.
"WELL-BRED FLING"?
DIRT NEVER KILLED A MAN!
HEE HEE
PEE-YEW!
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU TOOK A BATH, SAKURADA?
"CRUD KING"?
OH, NO!
TOO MANY SUSPECTS!
WHO WAS TATARA TALKING ABOUT?

RED THREE-RING... CIRCUS!
KUMANO SAMBA!
WOOT
AN ELEPHANT WITH RED FLOWERS ...
NOW FOR SOME LOCAL PERFORM-ANCE ART!
I'M TONE DEAF!
FOR NOW, I HAVE TO FOCUS ON SINGING !
NO LIP-SYNCHING ALLOWED!
SIGH
THEY ALL LOOK SHADY TO ME.
AND IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR ME TO SING...
MEN
IT WON'T OPEN!
UH-OH...
KCH KCH
KCH
FLUSH
RATTLE RATTLE

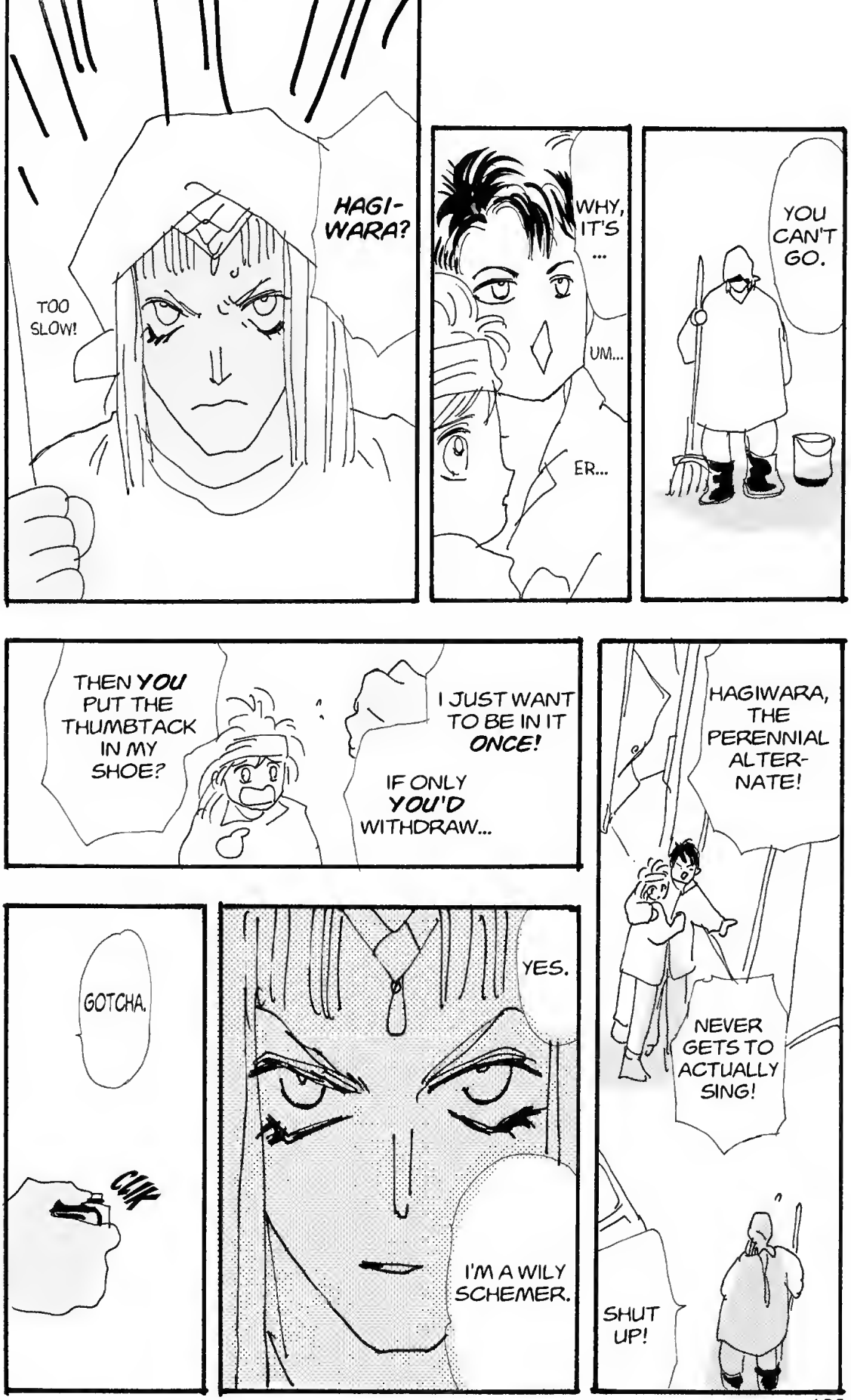

TIME'S RUNNING OUT!
KTK
OUT OF ORDER! DO NOT ENTER!
BM
BM
BM
I'M LOCKED IN!
COULD IT BE THE THUMBTACK BANDIT?
TATARA, HELP ME!
NOW WHAT?
THE RED TEAM STARTS OFF THE SECOND HALF.
I'M BUSHED.
IT'S THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR!
AT LEAST NACHI WAS, ANYWAY!
THE WOMAN WITH ALL THE CURVES!
VAVA VOOM!
STOP IT!
CHACHA AND ZAKI!
GIVE 'EM A HAND!
THE SONG IS "OCEAN ELEGY"!

COME DANCE ON MY BOSOM!
I AM THE OCEAN!

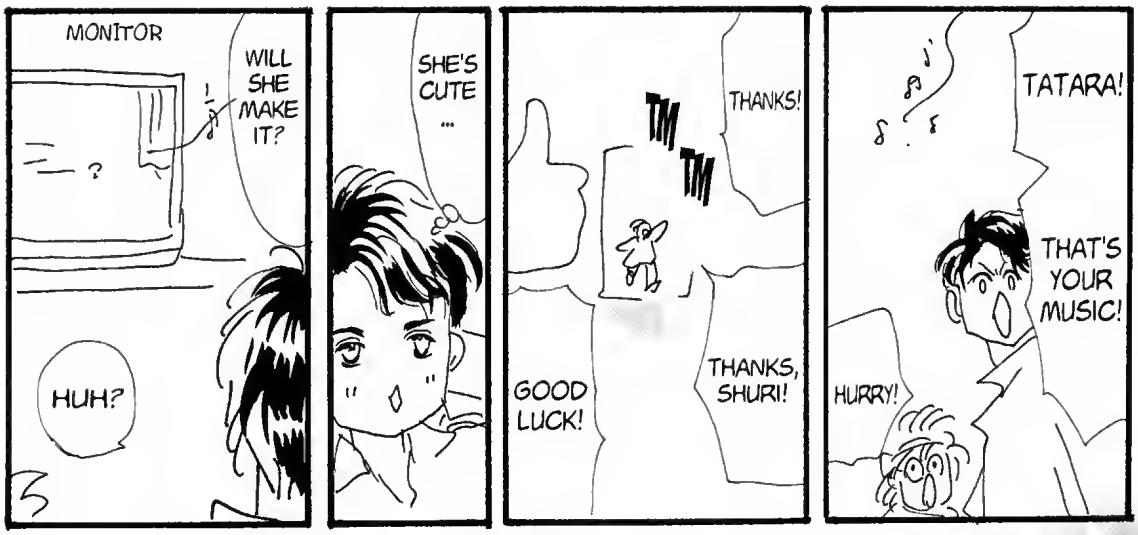

THE THIRD IS HIIRAGI, NOW JAGUAR'S CHOREOGRAPHER.
AH, THE GOOD OLD DAYS...
COMING UP LATER...
...ANOTHER OF THE THREE, MASUNAGA! HIS SONG IS "SURGING SEAS OF THE NORTH"!
...RAIZO, ONE OF OUR ORIGINAL TOP THREE!
HEAVIER STUFF FOR THE SECOND HALF!
FOR THE WHITE TEAM ...
"WISH ON THE STARS"!

I KNOW!
CHK
I'M DRENCHED IN SWEAT...
...AND LOCKED IN THE MEN'S BATH-ROOM!
UH-OH! I'M UP NEXT!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TOSS
HELP
SORRY, SHIN-BASHI.
ROLL
ROLL
HELP
IN BATHROOM

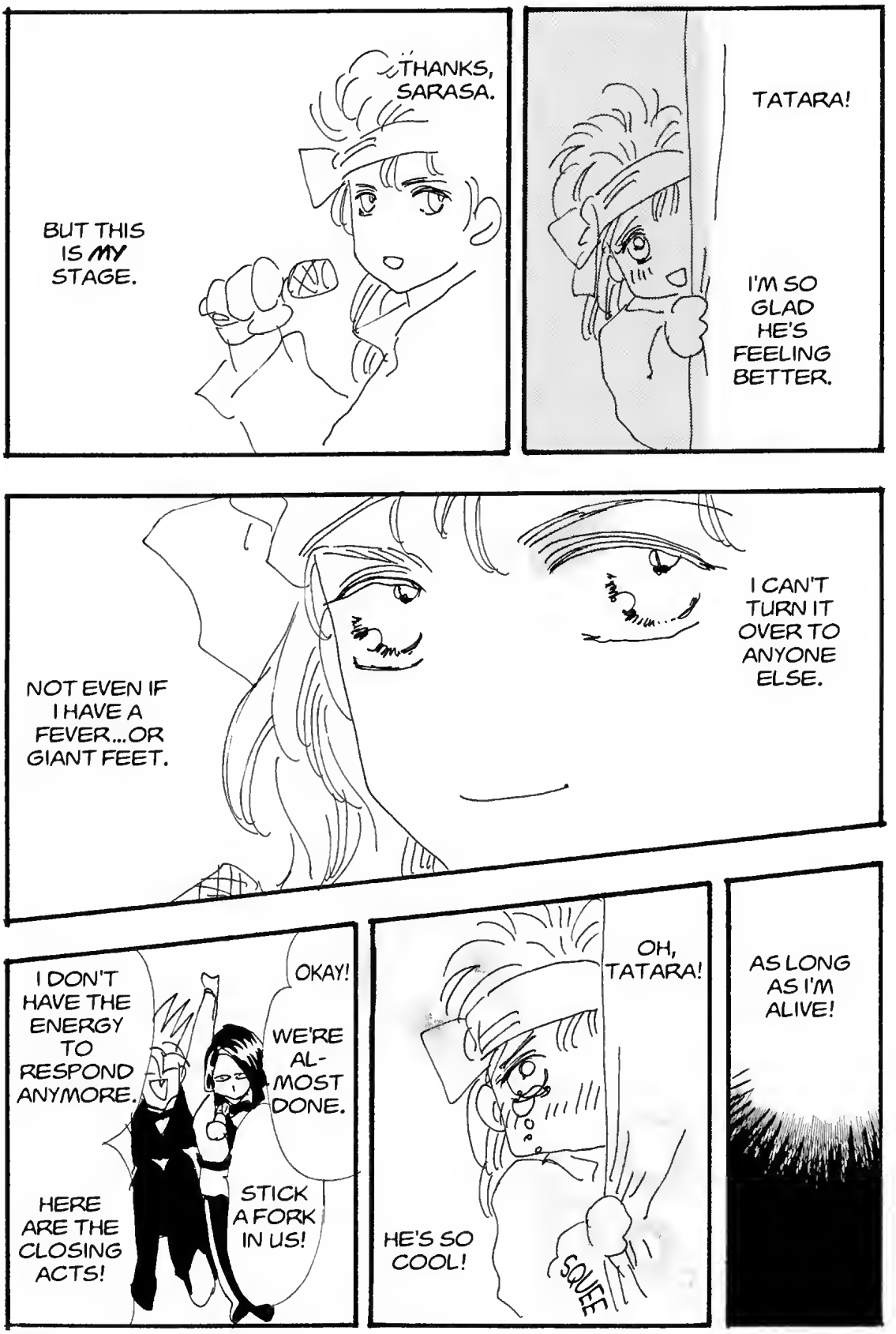
TOO MANY MIDDLE-AGED MEN IN A ROW!
I GOT A YOUNG ONE!
TOO HEAVY!
EEE
HUH? OUT OF ORDER?
HM?
ROLL
ALL THE LADIES LOVE HIM! HERE'S TATARA!
WHEE WHEE WOOH YAAY YAAY
HE'S TOPPIN' THE CHARTS RIGHT NOW!
WE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST!
WAAH
OH, SHURI! THANK YOU!
TATA-RA!
IT'S YOUR TURN!
KRAK

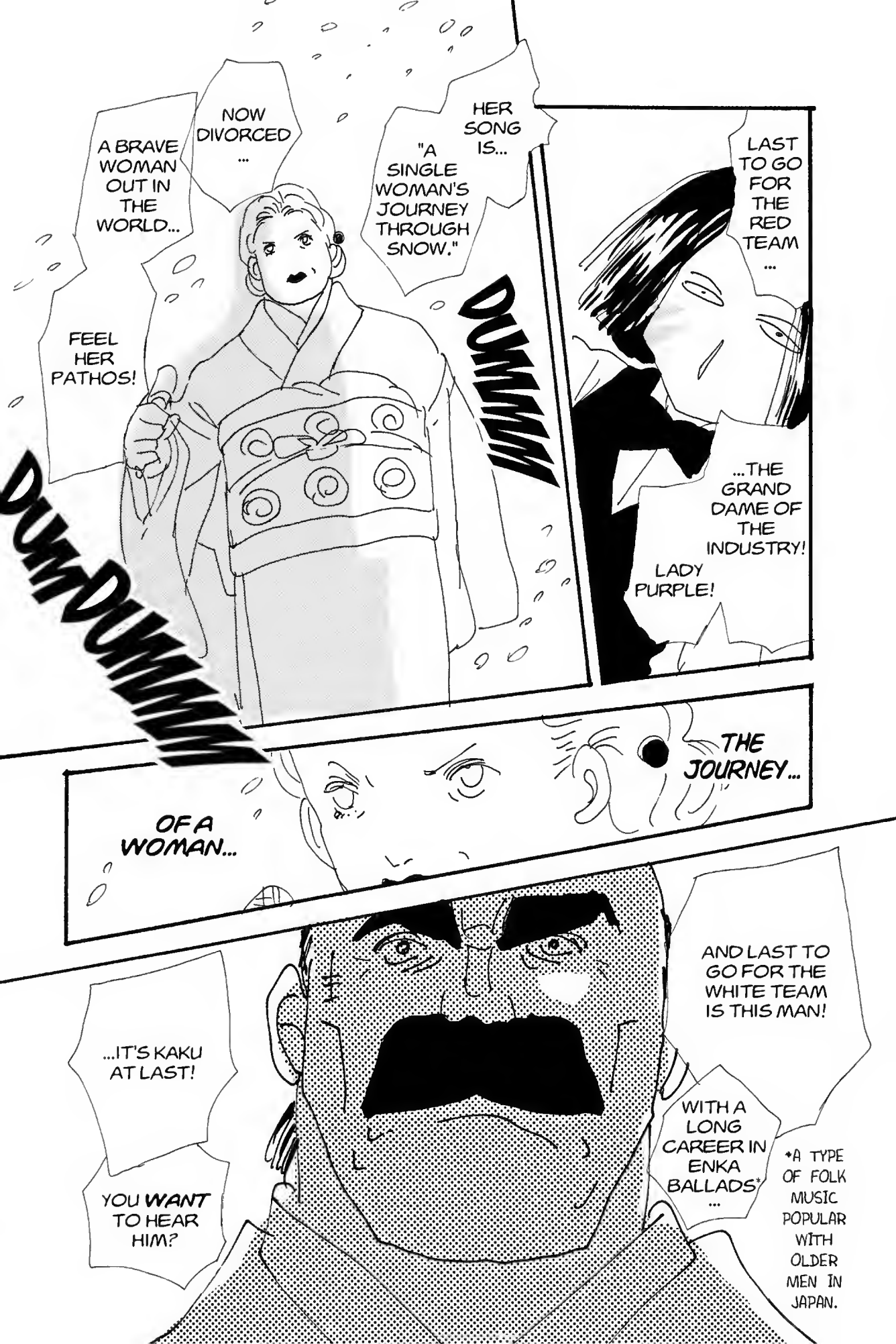

HAGI-WARA?
TOO SLOW!
WHY, IT'S ...
UM...
ER...
YOU CAN'T GO.
THEN YOU PUT THE THUMBTACK IN MY SHOE?
I JUST WANT TO BE IN IT ONCE!
IF ONLY YOU'D WITHDRAW...
HAGIWARA, THE PERENNIAL ALTER-NATE!
NEVER GETS TO ACTUALLY SING!
SHUT UP!
GOTCHA.
CLICK
YES.
I'M A WILY SCHEMER.

NO!
A RE-PORTER!
WITH PICTURES AND AUDIOTAPE!
GOT IT ALL ON VIDEO, TOO.
I HAD TO SEE FOR MY-SELF.
I HEARD RUMORS OF NEW STARS GETTING THUMB-TACKS IN THEIR SHOES.
READ ALL ABOUT IT IN THIS WEEK'S BASARA WEEKLY.
W... WAIT!
GET OUT OF HERE!
DRAG
BYE!
TM TM TM
I'M THE YELLOW JACKET OF THE STUDIO.
NO PRESS ALLOWED BACK HERE!
HACHIYA, SECURITY GUARD
YOU MUST LEAVE!
ARGH!
SLUMP
I FEEL LIKE HE'S DONE ME IN BEFORE...


MONITOR
WILL SHE MAKE IT?
HUH?
SHE'S CUTE ...
GOOD LUCK!
TM TM
THANKS!
THANKS, SHURI!
TATARA!
THAT'S YOUR MUSIC!
HURRY!

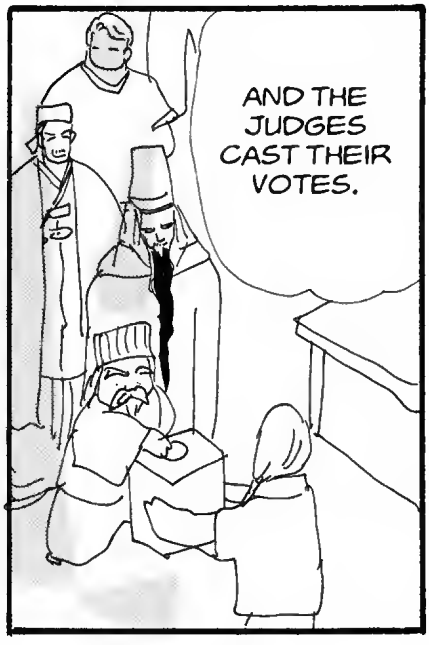
SHE'S AMAZING!
SINGING ALREADY?


THANKS, SARASA.
BUT THIS IS MY STAGE.
TATARA!
I'M SO GLAD HE'S FEELING BETTER.
I CAN'T TURN IT OVER TO ANYONE ELSE.
NOT EVEN IF I HAVE A FEVER...OR GIANT FEET.
I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO RESPOND ANYMORE.
OKAY!
WE'RE AL-MOST DONE.
HERE ARE THE CLOSING ACTS!
STICK A FORK IN US!
OH, TATARA!
HE'S SO COOL!
SQUEE
AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE!

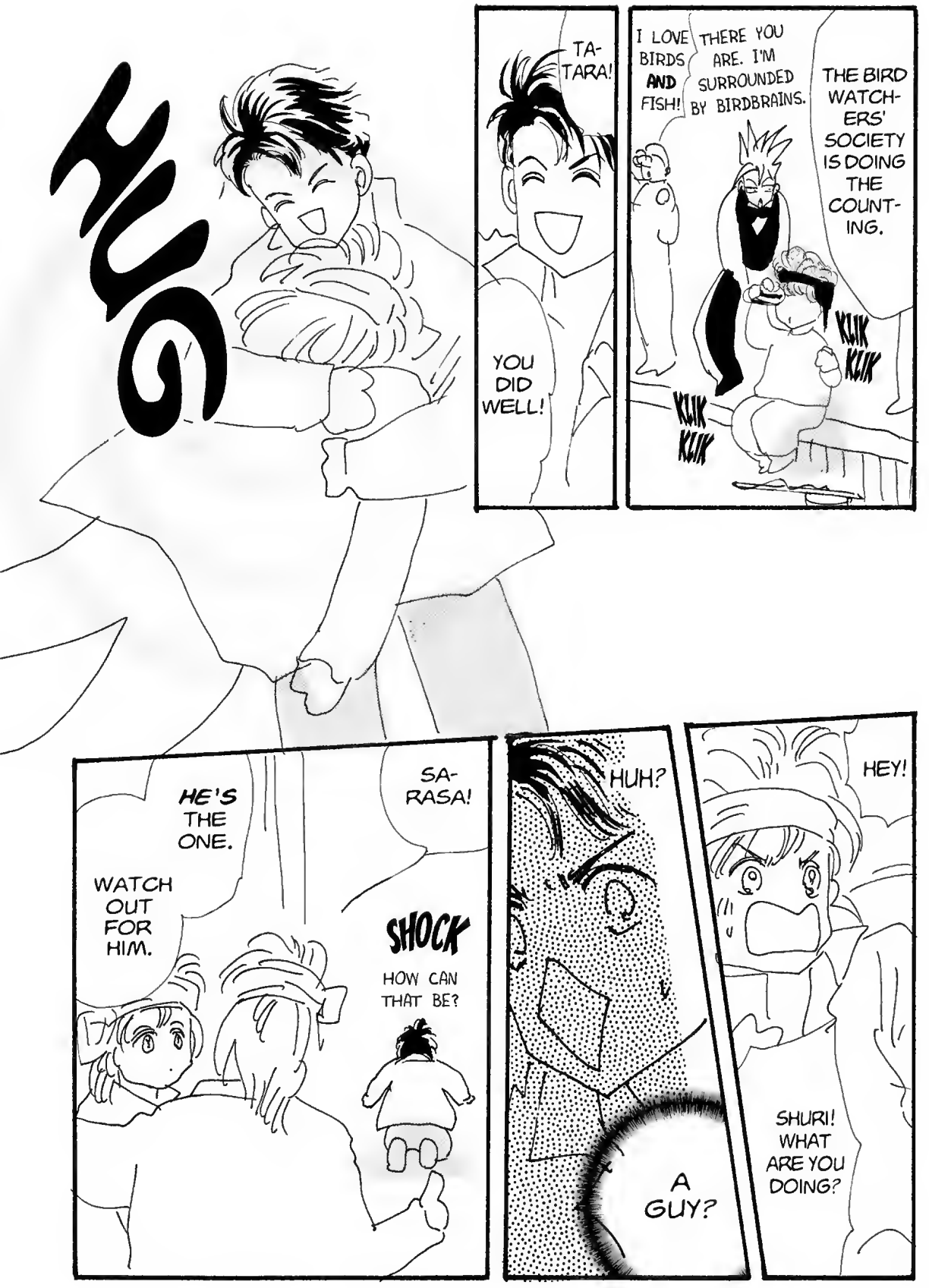

A BRAVE WOMAN OUT IN THE WORLD...
NOW DIVORCED ...
"A SINGLE WOMAN'S JOURNEY THROUGH SNOW."
HER SONG IS...
FEEL HER PATHOS!
DUMMM
DUMDUMMM
LAST TO GO FOR THE RED TEAM ...
...THE GRAND DAME OF THE INDUSTRY!
LADY PURPLE!
OF A WOMAN...
THE JOURNEY...
AND LAST TO GO FOR THE WHITE TEAM IS THIS MAN!
...IT'S KAKU AT LAST!
YOU WANT TO HEAR HIM?
WITH A LONG CAREER IN ENKA BALLADS* ...
*A TYPE OF FOLK MUSIC POPULAR WITH OLDER MEN IN JAPAN.

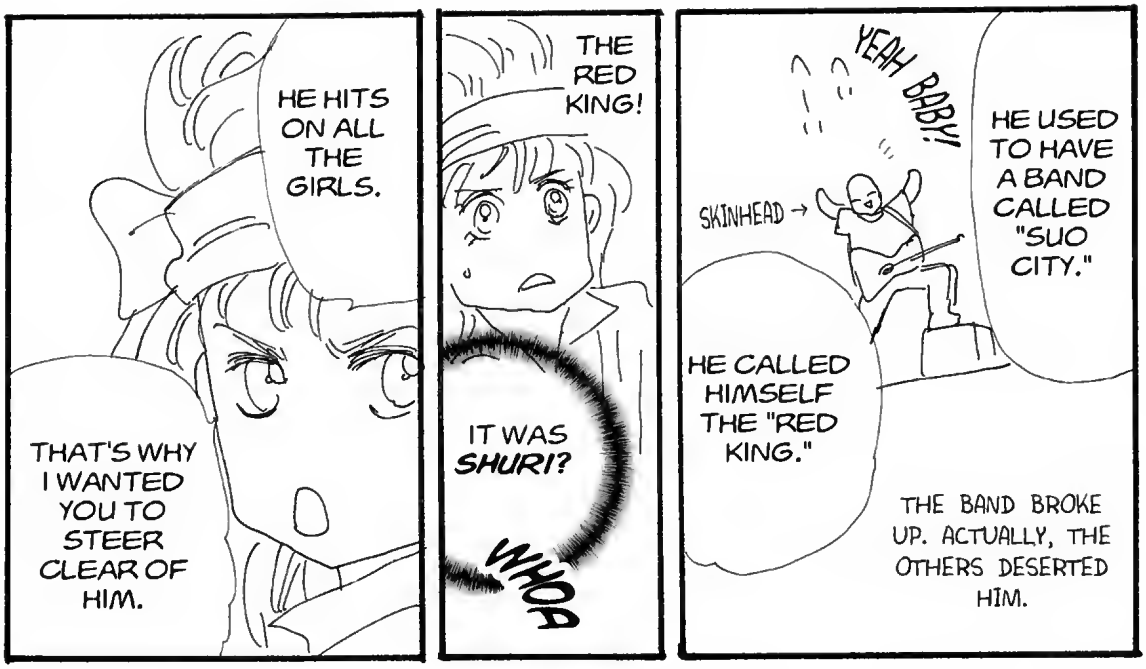
A HARSH WINTER...
WITH WAVES A-CRASHING...
HIS SONG IS "THE OLD SEA DOG OF NOTO PENINSULA ENDURES A..."
TOO LONG!
OOPS, HE'S START-ED!
THE OLD SEA DOG ENDURES ...

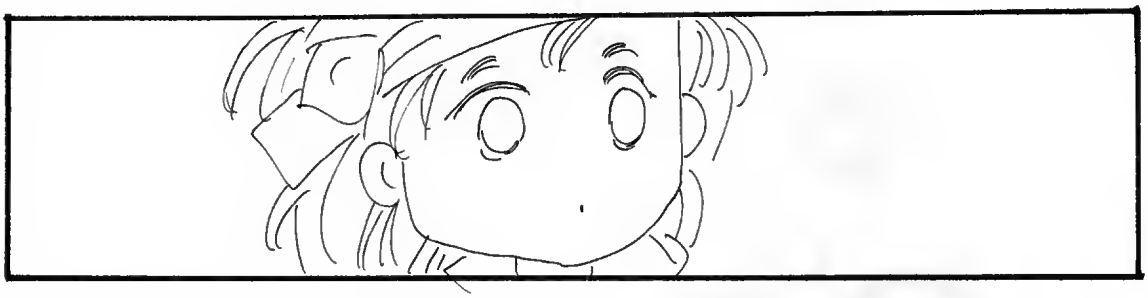
YADDA YADDA
THE AUDIENCE WILL ALSO VOTE BY HOLDING UP SIGNS.
YADDA YADDA
WHO WILL WIN?


AND THE JUDGES CAST THEIR VOTES.

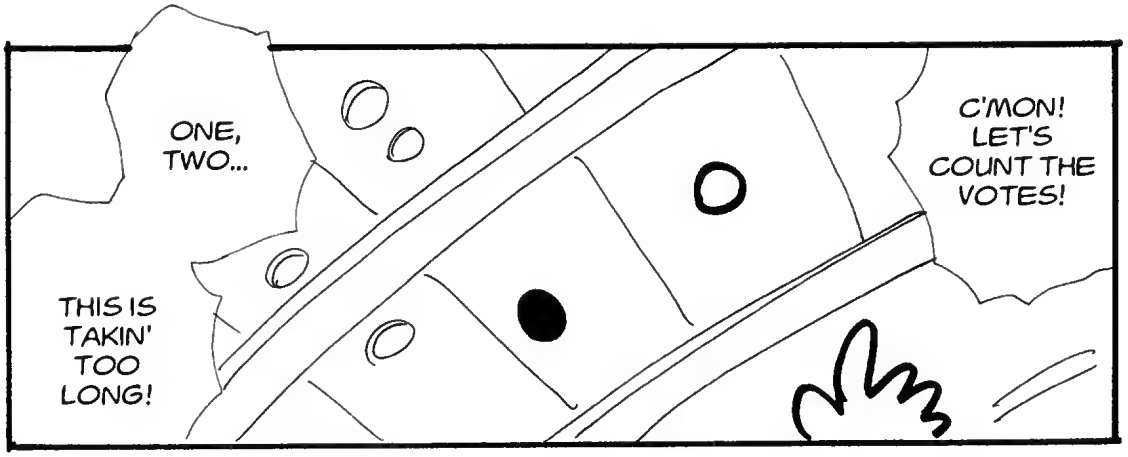
WE'RE WIPED OUT, BUT IT'S FINALLY OVER!
I NEVER WANT TO DO IT AGAIN!
SIGH
NEXT TIME, LET'S DO THE SINGIN' OUR-SELVES.

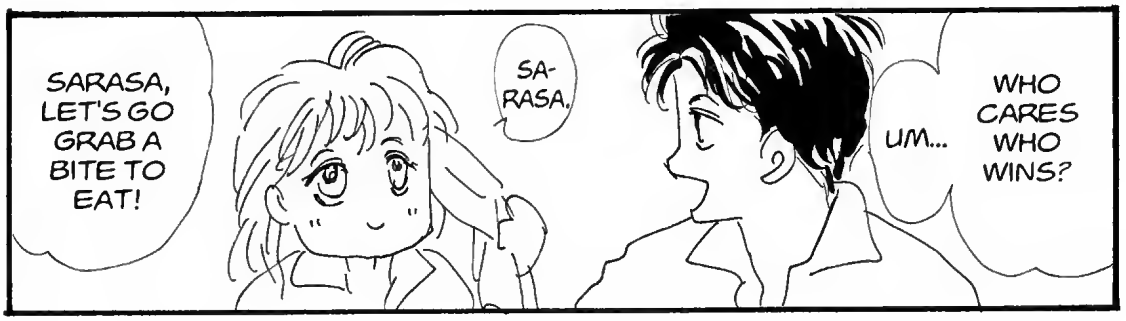

HUG
TA-TARA!
YOU DID WELL!
I LOVE BIRDS AND FISH!
THERE YOU ARE. I'M SURROUNDED BY BIRDBRAINS.
THE BIRD WATCH-ERS' SOCIETY IS DOING THE COUNT-ING.
KLIK KLIK
KLIK KLIK
SA-RASA!
HE'S THE ONE.
WATCH OUT FOR HIM.
SHOCK
HOW CAN THAT BE?
HUH?
A GUY?
HEY!
SHURI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

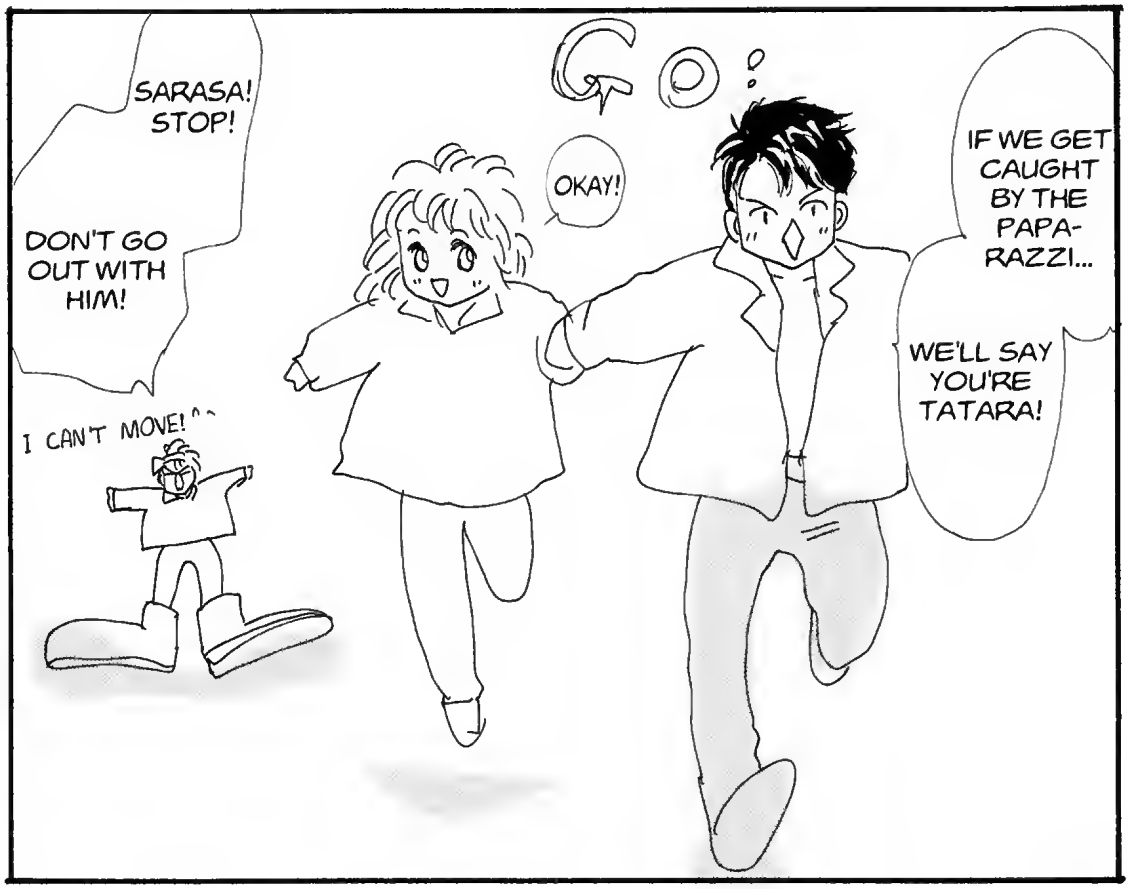

HE HITS ON ALL THE GIRLS.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO STEER CLEAR OF HIM.
THE RED KING!
IT WAS SHURI?
WHOA
YEAH BABY!
SKINHEAD →
HE USED TO HAVE A BAND CALLED "SUO CITY."
HE CALLED HIMSELF THE "RED KING."
THE BAND BROKE UP. ACTUALLY, THE OTHERS DESERTED HIM.

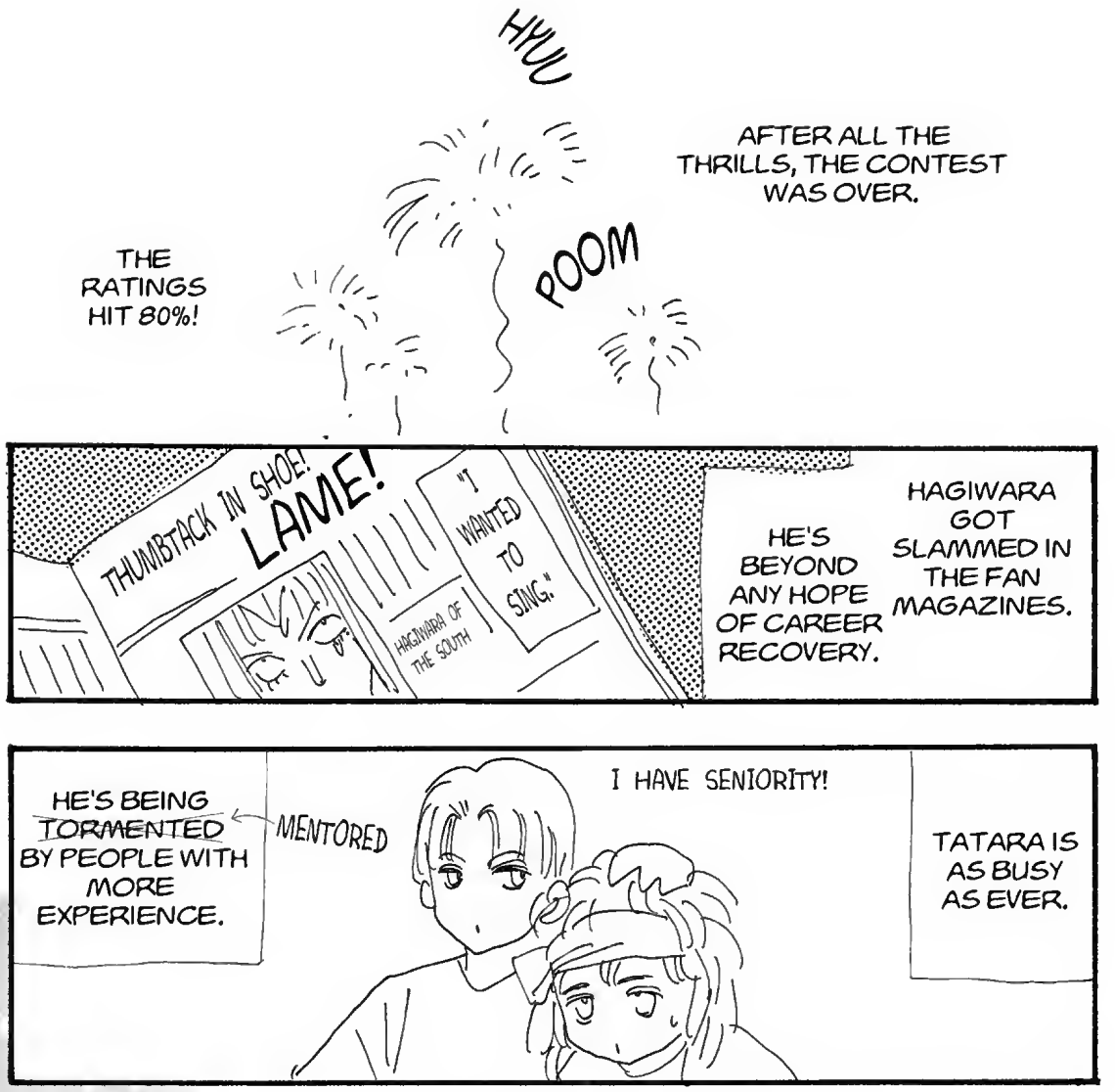


THANK YOU!
SHURI!
OHHH!
WAS THAT ALL?
SA-RASA!


ONE, TWO...
THIS IS TAKIN' TOO LONG!
C'MON! LET'S COUNT THE VOTES!


SARASA, LET'S GO GRAB A BITE TO EAT!
SA-RASA.
UM...
WHO CARES WHO WINS?


SARASA! STOP!
DON'T GO OUT WITH HIM!
I CAN'T MOVE!
GO!
OKAY!
IF WE GET CAUGHT BY THE PAPA-RAZZI...
WE'LL SAY YOU'RE TATARA!



TAM-TAM EXTRA:
SUMMER KOHAKU SINGING CHALLENGE: END.